

# Florida

Let's Go Bowhunting!  
Fishing Tourist

Fishing • Hunting  
• Conservation •  
Outdoor Recreation

# WILDLIFE

OCTOBER 1965

*The Florida Magazine for all Sportsmen*

25 CENTS

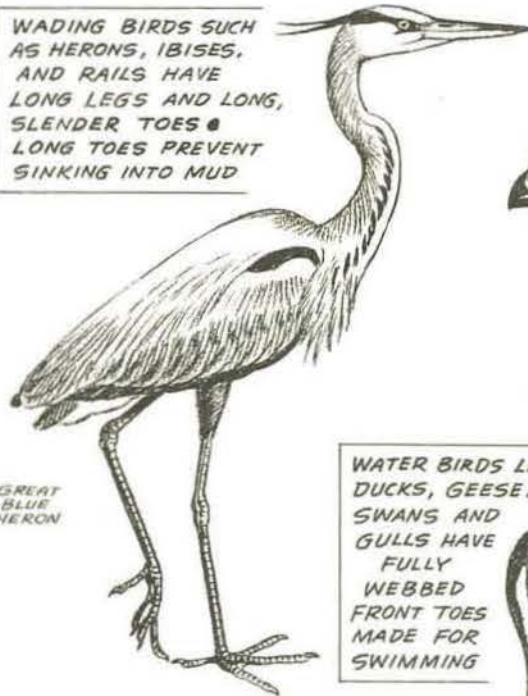




# Florida Wildlife Scrapbook

## WILD FEET - BIRDS

WADING BIRDS SUCH AS HERONS, IBISES, AND RAILS HAVE LONG LEGS AND LONG, SLENDER TOES • LONG TOES PREVENT SINKING INTO MUD



GREAT BLUE HERON

WATER BIRDS LIKE DUCKS, GEESE, SWANS AND GULLS HAVE FULLY WEBBED FRONT TOES MADE FOR SWIMMING



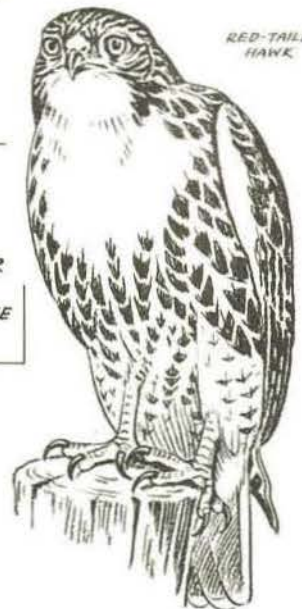
PINTAIL

STRONG, BLUNT CLAWS OF QUAIL, PHEASANTS AND TURKEYS ARE MADE FOR SCRATCHING AND RAKING THE GROUND WHEN SEARCHING FOR FOOD



BOBWHITE

HAWKS, EAGLES AND OWLS HAVE POWERFUL FEET WITH STRONG, SHARP TALONS FOR GRASPING AND HOLDING RATS, MICE AND OTHER PREY



RED-TAILED HAWK

WOODPECKERS HAVE TWO TOES IN FRONT AND TWO BEHIND WITH STRONG, SHARP CLAWS MADE FOR CLIMBING AND CLINGING TO VERTICAL SURFACES



YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER

FEET OF SONG AND PERCHING BIRDS HAVE THREE TOES IN FRONT, ONE BEHIND FOR HOLDING ON TO BRANCHES OF TREES • AT REST OR ASLEEP THEIR TOES LOCK AUTOMATICALLY TO KEEP THEM FROM FALLING • TOES UNLOCK WHEN BIRD RAISES UP



MOCKINGBIRD

# Florida WILDLIFE

VOL. 19 NO. 5

OCTOBER 1965

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Published monthly by the  
FLORIDA GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION  
Tallahassee, Florida

★

Dedicated to the  
Conservation, Restoration, and Protection of our Game and Fish

★

BILL HANSEN, EDITOR

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FLORIDA WILDLIFE is published monthly by the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, Fla. Single copy price, 25¢. Subscription rates: 1-year, \$2.50; 2-year, \$4.75; 3-year, \$6.25. Change of address should be reported promptly. The Commission assumes no responsibility for unsolicited manuscripts and illustrative materials. Permission is granted to reprint text materials, EXCEPT for advertising and commercial purposes, provided full credit is given FLORIDA WILDLIFE, and contributors. Clearance must be made with photographers and artists to reproduce illustrations. Entered as Second Class Matter Nov. 8, 1947, at the U.S. Post Office, Tallahassee, Fla., under the Act of August 24, 1912.

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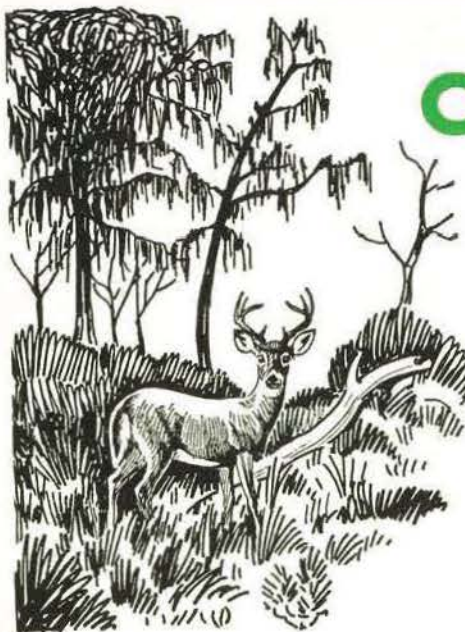
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# CONSERVATION SCENE

## Florida's Firearms Law Hailed as One of the Best

OF THE HUNDREDS of firearms bills introduced across the country this year, the most constructive measures have come out of Florida, California and Illinois.

Firearms bills in these states have gotten the enthusiastic support of sportsmen, according to the Shooting Sports Association, because they have been sighted-in at the criminal misuse of firearms without infringing on the rights of law-abiding hunters and shooters.

In fact, the Florida measure, which was recently signed into law, makes it very clear in a "Declaration of Policy" that no law should ever infringe on the rights of law-abiding citizens to own and use firearms for sporting purposes and "to defend and protect law, liberty, life, limb, family, home and property."

Further, unlike many other federal and state proposals, the law goes on to make it absolutely clear that the ownership and use of firearms is prohibited to mental incompetents, drug addicts, chronic alcoholics, and persons convicted of armed crimes.

As the Association points out, this is exactly the type of law which sportsmen and the firearms industry have sought for years.

In Illinois, the legislature recently passed a bill which would

also deter the criminal without harassing hunters and shooters. The bill, which is now awaiting Governor Otto Kerner's signature, would make additional jail sentences mandatory for armed crimes of violence.

Under the bill, an armed crime would be considered a separate offense and the sentence would be added to the one imposed if the offense were committed unarmed. Sentences would be increased two to five years for the first conviction, five to ten years for the second, and an indeterminate term (but not less than 7 years) for the third.

This bill, which was actively supported by Illinois sportsmen, is similar to one now pending in Congress, sponsored by Rep. Robert Casey of Texas, to set a mandatory 25 year federal sentence for a person convicted of using or carrying a firearm in a robbery, assault, murder or kidnapping. A similar bill is pending in the Pennsylvania legislature.

California's firearms laws, which Governor Edmund G. Brown calls "among the best in the nation", were strengthened recently with the signing of new laws, supported by the state's sportsmen.

Among them are laws to:

—Classify as grand theft, the theft of any firearm.

—Increase the penalty for illegal possession or ownership of

a concealable firearm from 5 to 15 years.

—Make it an offense, punishable by up to 15 years in prison, for any person who has been convicted of a felony while armed, to own or possess a firearm.

—Prohibit a person who has been involuntarily committed to a mental institution to own or possess a firearm without a certificate from the head of the institution that he can do so without endangering others.

—Exempt antique weapons from the Dangerous Weapons Control Law.

### New Pheasant Project

IF YOUR BIRD DOG gets a questioning look on its face this coming season don't be surprised. It may be wondering what to do about that strange, new bird he has just wended in the edge of the cornfield.

As the man behind the dog, however, you should know that it is one of the pheasant stocked by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. Hold your fire in such cases. Otherwise this promising experiment in the introduction of a new game bird species in Florida will not have a chance of succeeding.

That is the word from game biologist R. W. Murray, Chipley, who is now busy releasing pheasants.

(Continued on page 30)

### THE COVER

*The Sparrow Hawk, also known as Killy Hawk, is the smallest member of Falcon family. The male, perched above, is smaller than the female, lower, with an average weight of three ounces, and wingspread of 21 inches, compared to four ounce female with two foot wingspread. See page 13.*

From A Painting By Wallace Hughes



## Hunting Season Notes

### Waterfowl Hunting Season Regulations

FLORIDA HUNTERS will have a two phase season for ducks, coots and geese during 1965-66. The first phase will open at 12:00 noon November 24 and continue through December 6. The second phase will open at sunrise, December 18, and continue through January 9.

Daily shooting hours will be from sunrise to sunset except on the November 24 opening day when hunting will begin at 12:00 noon.

The daily bag limit on ducks other than mergansers is four and may not include more of the following species than: (a) two wood ducks; (b) two mallards; (c) two canvasbacks. Daily bag limit for geese will be two. Daily bag for coots will be ten with a total possession limit of 20.

The limit on American, red-breasted and hooded mergansers, in the aggregate of these species, are five daily and ten in possession of which not more than one daily and two in possession may be hooded mergansers.

Duck hunters south of State Road 50 will be allowed to have four Florida ducks in their total bag of four. North of State Road 50 the Florida duck is classified along with the mallard and hunters may have no more than two in their daily bag.

In the following described areas, two scaup ducks may be taken in addition to the daily bag: all open waters of Charlotte Harbor area from the bridge on U. S. Highway 41 to a line running from Boca Grande Pass east through Bokeelia to the mainland; all open waters of the Guano River Wildlife Management Area in St. Johns County; all open waters of Banana River from Banana Creek south to State Road 520; all open waters of Tampa Bay; all open waters of the Indian River from Shiloh south to the bridge on State Road 516 at Melbourne; all open waters of Mosquito Lagoon from Oak Hill to State Road 402.

## Welcome Aboard

# Conservation Bandwagon

By ERNEST SWIFT

National Wildlife Federation

FOR THE PAST FEW YEARS we have seen programs identified with the conservation movement sprouting like fire weed and popple brush on a new burn. And like popple sprouts these ideologies have sprung up because they have a broad public appeal, because they are promoted with public funds and seem painless, and because of our national affluence.

Popple sprouts, although short-lived, have their place in the scheme of tree succession because they furnish an overstory to protect species of greater value. The question is, will these popple sprouts of conservation help nurture the sciences and management programs which are basic to the preservation of resources—or will they finally shade them out so they die?

Because conservation education has been woefully neglected, there is a popular belief that practically all forms of outdoor recreation are in themselves conservation. Camping, picnicking, hiking, water skiing or motor boating are now being considered as ecological offsprings of conservation. Hunting and fishing can be used as a tool for some aspects of management, or can be destructive, depending on methods and intensity. There is grave danger in substituting these pleasures—which are all laudable in proper perspective—for ecology. People are often prone to accept shallow concepts as a substitute for profundity; it takes less mental effort.

Recently we have been alerted to the need for community, state and national beautification. Certainly there is no quarrel with this ambition. It is a worthy venture; the American public notably lacks an appreciation of beauty and neatness. A conscious effort toward beautification could eventually lead to better public and private living habits. Beautification must commence with improved attitudes which are now lacking. As of now America has been willing to trade too many of its wondrous beauties for dollar bills and creature comforts. But even beautification is bound to become a thing of different dimensions and objectives to people of varied environments and backgrounds. Are its roots to be watered by the principles of ecology or will beautification simply be an instrument to hide ugliness?

Junk yards and auto dumps have been mentioned as a prime target in the beautification program, but there should be something more basic than screening them with high board fences and shrub rows.

These junk heaps of iron and other metals are still a part of the nation's supply of nonrenewable resources. The junk yards may be an eye-sore, but the waste they represent is a sin.

These junk heaps represent overproduction of automobiles, and too often through the land we see high priced farm machinery rusting in fence corners. Overproduction and waste is what sustains our affluent way of life. Such attitudes are fiercely defended. It is unpopular to buck the current of big government, big business and big labor in this regard. The very fact that we Ameri-

*(Continued on page 34)*



# MUZZLE FLASHES



By EDMUND McLAURIN

**R**EADERS WHO ARE sensitive to the jarring effect of 12 gauge shotgun recoil evidently are many; I get numerous inquiries about "a 12 gauge shotgun that doesn't kick much" or "please tell me the make and model 12 gauge shotgun I can shoot for many repeated shots without my shoulder gradually getting black and blue." Some of the inquiries are from women, but men are obviously concerned with the problem of felt recoil, too.

Effect of felt recoil on different shooters is an unknown variable; one man may not mind or be unduly conscious of it, while another—firing the same weapon and load—may find developed recoil most objectionable and the firearm hard to control. There is nothing sissy about being sensitive to gun recoil.

Individual sensitivity to recoil depends on such things as gun fit, type and contour of butt plate, the way the weapon is held and fired, whether or not the shooter is gun conscious or primarily target conscious, apprehension of anticipated gun-kick, and confidence or lack of confidence in gun and shooting technique. Lastly gun design, particularly the shape of the stock, is an influencing factor. Some guns absorb and distribute developed recoil better than others, by reason of individual mechanical function and engineered design. . . .

Newton's law establishes "for every action there must be an equal and opposite reaction", and this law finds working example every time a firearm is fired. Gases generated by rapid burning of the powder charge exert a forward force that pushes the bullet or shot charge out of the barrel. By so doing, an equal force is exerted in the opposite direction, and it is some of this developed recoil that the shooter feels a fraction of a second after the shot. Contrary to popular belief, recoil has nothing to do with "pushing the air", and, in truth, produced recoil momentum resulting from escaping barrel gases would be higher if the gun were fired in a vacuum than when it is fired normally.

A 12 gauge, 7½ pound, shotgun with 26-inch barrel firing single shell containing 1¼ ounces of shot and ¾ drams equivalent of powder will result in 22.5 foot pounds of free recoil. Some shotguns and their loads develop as much as 32 or more f.p.'s of kick-back. Jack O'Connor contributed a simple, direct line of thought on this basic subject when he

**Recoil sensitivity factors include gun fit and design, and the butt plate contour**

said, "Recoil increases as either the velocity or weight of the shot charge, is increased, provided the same gun is used in making comparisons. Also, the lighter the gun, the more the kick; the heavier the bullet or shot charge and the powder charge, the more the kick". . . .

For recoil sensitive shotgunners who want to stick to the 12 gauge, I recommend the Remington Model 1100 autoloading shotgun, preferably with a thick, Skeet style Pachmayr "White Line" rubber recoil pad for maximum shooting comfort.

With the Pachmayr pad or without, felt recoil of the Remington Model 1100 autoloader is remarkably light. The recoil is still there (because the shell's developed recoil is a fixed, constant factor), but it is so well controlled that a 12 gauge feels like a 20 in respect to imparted shoulder recoil—at least it does to me.

If you are a hunter, get that Model 1100 with 26-inch barrel equipped with a selective choke device like the Lyman, Super Poly Choke or Pachmayr, and the already mentioned Pachmayr "White Line" recoil pad. The muzzle attached compensator will serve the dual purpose of reducing felt recoil and providing a selection of choke, and the Pachmayr pad will absorb some of the remaining recoil. You'll have a gun you will enjoy shooting, and which will be very versatile afield.

If your shooting activity is to be confined to trap shooting, then get the special, longer barreled, Full Choke bored, trap shooting Model 1100-TB with ventilated rib, Monte Carlo style stock comb. Add the recommended Pachmayr pad, but dispense with muzzle attached choke control unit, not needed on a Full Choke bored trap gun.

FEW SHOOTERS are ever truly satisfied with their guns. Invariably, their line of thinking is that the gun presently owned can be advantageously replaced by another model. Consequently, every hunting season sees many sales and trades.

For those so inclined, it is timely to mention that reputable dealers are now in competition with each other for good used guns, and they in turn usually guarantee satisfactory performance to their customers. Quite frequently, a sporting goods store can





For recoil sensitive shotgunners who want to stick to the 12 gauge, the Remington Model 1100 autoloading shotgun is notable for its imparted light recoil.

offer you a very good trade-in of an old gun on a brand new one.

On the other hand, if the gun dealer buys outright, with no balancing trade-in, don't expect to get much above the current "blue book" price. The reason is that the licensed dealer must be able to mark up the gun to a new selling price and make a profit to stay in business, and he has money tied up in the transaction until he does liquidate.

When buying a used gun by mail, either deal with an established firm, or try to get the individual seller to allow you a three day test period, with guaranteed refund if the gun proves unsatisfactory. Your part of the agreement is to be responsible for the merchandise in case of loss, and to get any unsatisfactory gun back in transit with copy of Bill of Lading as proof, within the three day time limit, or forfeit claim to refund.

Some sellers will not grant privilege of a three day test. In that event, insist on shipment Express collect with examination privilege. This means you can open the package in the presence of the carrier, to satisfy yourself that the firearm is apparently in good condition before paying the C.O.D. charges. If unsatisfactory, the shipment is marked "Refused" and returned to source at original shipper's expense.

Mail order transactions, other than with reputable firms, always have an element of risk — which is why so many of us prefer to buy our guns locally, despite the attraction of a mail order advertisement's oft-stated discount.

AN AVID READER of hunting and fishing magazines, or one who periodically reads available books on big game hunting, sooner or later notices mention of use of a Nosler bullet, and reads of its described performance on game.

Nosler custom made bullets have long been used by handloaders and by big game hunters fortunate enough to obtain ready-to-use ammunition loaded with Nosler bullets of proper style and weight. The Nosler line of bullets has a good reputation among experienced riflemen, who demand the best accuracy and performance possible from a bullet. One-shot kills are common.

Nosler bullets are unique in that they are partitioned; on impact with the flesh the soft, tapered fore-section rolls back over a harder core lead base, creating an expanded bullet of much larger than original caliber and one of great cutting and shock-ing power, but one which tends to hold together. A

special Nosler patented partition positively controls expansion.

The trouble, until recently, has been that the non-handloader has not been able to easily obtain ready-to-use ammunition loaded with Nosler bullets. Nosler does not manufacture complete rounds of ammunition, and few handloaders will sell their precious creations. However, that stumbling block no longer exists.

Norma, a big name in ammunition manufacturing, now loads various popular calibers with Nosler bullets. Included are the .270 Winchester, 7x61, .308 Winchester, .375 H&H and 7mm Remington Magnum calibers.

The premium ammunition costs more—about 5¢ more per round—but gives assured hunting efficiency, if you do your part as a straight-shooting rifleman. It can be had from any sporting goods store stocking Norma brand ammunition, or by mail order from Williams Gun Sight Company, Davison, Michigan; Badger Shooter's Supply, Owen, Wisconsin, and from other Norma ammunition distributors.

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ANYONE WHO PREPARES editorial copy a couple of months in advance of scheduled publication, or who long writes column material, sooner or later encounters unintentional complications. For example. . . .

In the March 1965 issue, readers were told about the small, Platco Brand No. 702, plastic name plates used for personalizing various sporting goods items, especially fishing tackle boxes, hard leather gun cases and camera bags.

The plates are of  $\frac{5}{32}$  of an inch thick, hard, durable plastic, and are  $2\frac{5}{16}$  inches long by  $\frac{5}{8}$  of an inch wide. Name lettering is  $\frac{3}{16}$  of an inch high. Quality is excellent.

I especially recommended the solid black background name plate with white lettering, and gave the name of the Southeastern Sales Corp., St. Petersburg, Fla., as source of supply. But between the time of copy preparation and magazine printing the owner of the one-man firm had a heart attack and closed business.

For reader information, the plates can be ordered direct from the manufacturer, Plastic Tag & Trade Check Company, P. O. Box 2, Bay City, Michigan. Price for a minimum order of 25 figures out about 19¢ per plate; however, if you order 50, the unit price drops to 11¢ per plate—your best buy. ●



# FISHING



By CHARLES WATERMAN

THE BOATING department is on another page and I don't even own a yachting cap like Elgin White's but now and then I venture a few words about the fishing boat business to the despair of more nautical folk.

After four years in the navy I was still inclined to call the deck the floor so my analysis of hull design has a pre-school sound but the specialized field of small, fast fishing boats is not too often scratched by the cruising crowd. Here goes on some experiences with the "multi-hulled" outboards.

These boats have different looks but they all operate on the principle of several surfaces contacting the water at once. They are noted for easy riding as they plane partly on a cushion of air and spray. The merits of the various bottoms are too complex for me and all I can go by are performance, utility and topside features.

I certainly haven't tried all of these boats. I have recently used a Bonito, produced by Bonito Boats, Inc., Box 8876, Orlando, Florida. I have also done some rough water miles in the large, 16-foot Boston Whaler.

The Boston Whaler name comes up any time this type of hull is mentioned. In fact, it has been held up as the standard for so long that there's a tendency to say all such boats are imitations of the Whaler whether they are or not. I imagine the term "Whaler type," is irksome to many builders, even though they privately know that Boston Whaler put the show on the road, regardless of how original the design may be. Anyway, this type of boat is big in the fast fishing craft business.

Few fresh water fishermen need as much boat as the large size Boston Whaler and others in that class although they are a combination of soft-riding, good speed and great stability. They also have no intention of sinking, no matter what. The large Whaler is close to 16 feet in length and will do the job if you want to travel in open water now and then.

The big Whaler is expensive. The factory "console" or bridge amidships does not appeal to me as it sits up too high for creek travel and seems an unnecessary bit of bric-a-brac that would always be in my way. However, the hull can be had "stripped"

A class of boat that will serve for both salt and fresh water fishing, and is a fairly spacious, fast, soft-riding craft

and when the interior is built to suit the fishing, there's an amazing amount of room.

Most of the riding I've done in a big Whaler has been along the lower Gulf Coast. Ted Smallwood, the Everglades guide, has one and I've gone fishing a lot in his. At present, it's equipped with a 90-horsepower motor. I know it shouldn't go that fast but as nearly as we can figure from known distances (no speedometer), it is doing something like 45 miles an hour with three fishermen and a load of gas. Something happened when he went to the 90. Before that, he had used 70 and 75-horse motors and got plenty of speed but nothing like what she shows now.

Okay, so you don't believe the speed. Cut it ten miles an hour if you want to and we're still traveling. Anyway, on a recent one-day trip after tarpon we ran 200 miles and still had plenty of fishing time. I have left Everglades City with Smallwood in early morning, fished off the Florida Keys near Marathon and returned in time for dinner without hurrying.

Of course the gimmick is that we didn't have to slow up for a moderate chop along the coast. With most boats of that size we might have been unable to plane.

Now I, personally, wouldn't have much use for the big Boston Whaler. It is a heavy boat and when sitting without power it draws considerable water. It would stick on a shallow flat you could pole right across with flatter bottoms.

Very few people will try to row the 16-footer (or any other boat for that matter, I guess) but it can be done. Smallwood has a set of oars with his and rows it a great deal but it doesn't maneuver easily and can get tiresome along a shoreline if somebody persists in getting his plug hung up. It certainly wouldn't be top choice for a lake and river bass fisherman who wanted to comb the edges.

The fresh or brackish water fisherman who wants safety, good speed and lots of room in a shorter, lighter boat can do worse than the tri-hulled boats of around 13 to 15 feet. The Bonito I have been playing with is in that class.

The Bonito has a centerline length of 14 feet and a beam of 65 inches. It weighs around 320 pounds



and has a double bottom. I would say that motors in the 25 to 40 horsepower class would be about ideal for it. It's extremely easy riding, dry and full of fishing room and fast enough for any sensible fishing need in fresh water.

For my own personal use the bow rail would have to be removed as I shove a boat through a lot of creeks where the brush would tear off anything that stands up like that. This would be an objection in about one in a million fishermen as nearly everyone else is too smart to crawl through mangrove creeks when there is plenty of nice, open water outside.

Such boats don't row as nicely as long, slender ones but you have to have some compromises somewhere.

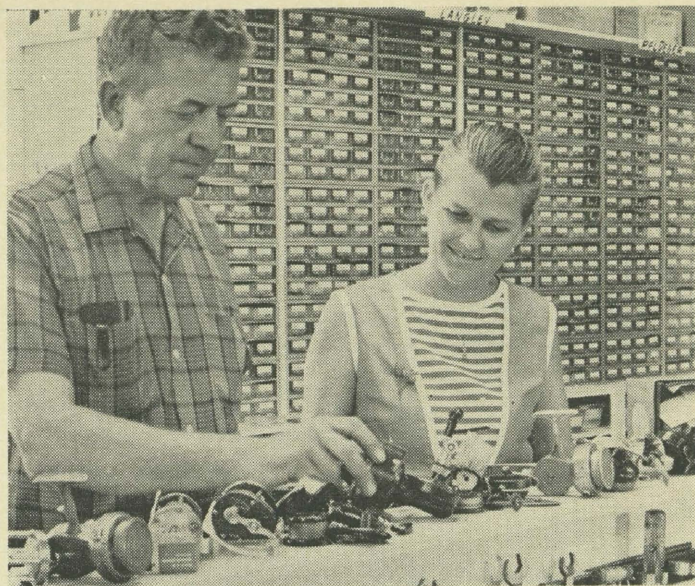
Storage, as in most small fishing boats, is something of a problem. With all that space, you have little covered area. This Bonito has a covered compartment on each side amidships, each of which serves as a passenger seat. Minor beefs are that rain water can seep in around the edges of the lids and that the lids blow open when the boat is being towed at highway speeds. I'm not picking on the Bonito folks as this business of compartment lids blowing open has been a sore spot with me on several boats. It isn't as simply prevented as you might think. Latches and locks can be in the way.

This class of boat will bear looking into if you need a fairly fast, soft-riding, roomy job that will serve for sensible salt water use as well as lake and river fishing.

At Gary Bennett's, Inc., in Cocoa, they can repair 100 fishing reels a day.

I think that Gary's place (exclusive of the large factories that work only on their own product) is the biggest reel repair plant in the world. I didn't look very hard because it would have loused up a good story if I'd found one but if there's a bigger reel fixer it's a long way off.

Bennett's staff gives 24-hours service on mail orders which make up a major part of his work. Those of us used to reel repair departments located some-



Gary Bennett, the reel repair man, looks over some newly admitted patients with Mrs. Winona Hazellief, one of the repair experts. In the background is a small section of the parts stock cabinets that line the Bennett reel shop.

where between the trash can and the water cooler in back of a sporting goods store are a little shaken to find entire walls devoted to parts drawers, a daily mailing of armloads of repaired reels and repair techniques that convert a "basket case" to a like-new reel in less than five minutes.

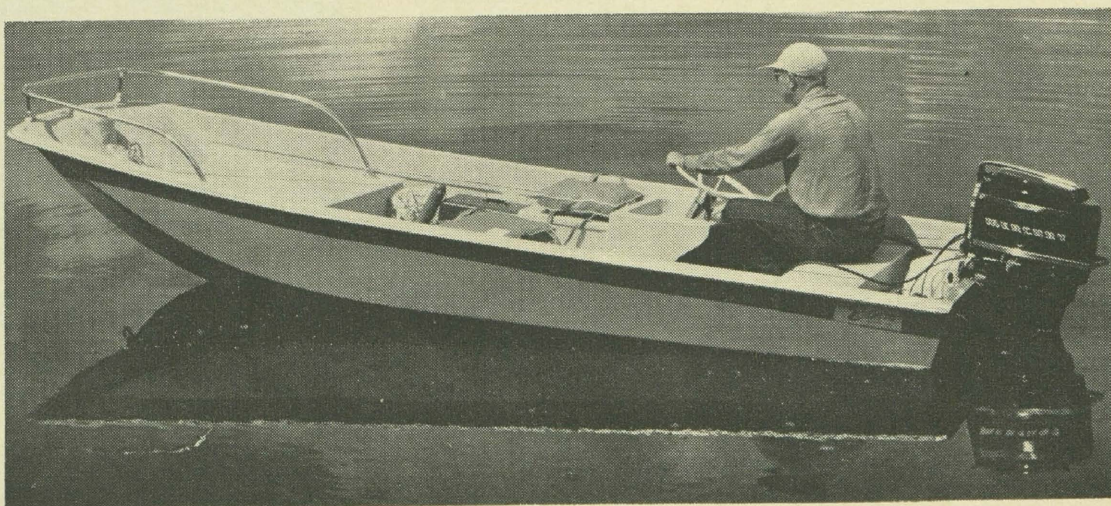
A "basket case," incidentally, is a reel that arrives in a bag, usually because its owner was a little vague about how to get it back together. Gary says the occasional left-hand threads in popular reel makes are most likely to hammerlock the amateur repairman. He adds that two basket cases in the same bag are momentarily confusing but no great problem.

A reel's nationality makes no difference. The parts are nearly always ready for it.

A Mitchell spinning reel, admittedly one of the most complicated, can be completely rebuilt in 10 minutes. While I was talking to Mrs. Lorraine Sandstrom, one of the repair experts, she had four bait-casting reels on her bench. It appeared to me that

*(Continued on page 32)*

With plenty of room for a 14 foot length, the Bonito tri-hulled fishing boat is a fast mover with 35 horsepower motor. Removal of the forward deck rail is best if you are a creek fisherman.





## Hunting-Trials-Training



By JIM FLOYD

SUPPOSE THE FOLLOWING comments should rightfully be in Ed McLaurin's column "Muzzle Flashes" as it deals more with shooters and guns than with dogs or field trials.

### Field Trial Guns

SHOOTING FOR FIELD trials can be fun or funny. It cannot be both. As a matter of fact, even when it's funny, few people laugh openly. It just isn't done at such serious functions.

On more than one occasion faultless trial dogs have come out on the short end of the stick just because some "gun" had a nerve that was wound too tight and went "boing" at the wrong instant. To know, to really know, the pressure any field trial "gun" is under, one would have to first run a capable dog in a trial.

When a trial marshal calls your number and you begin the walk to the line position every nerve in a handler's body and in the dog's body is clanging like a grandfather clock. All it takes to make the mainspring jump its track is one missed bird at the precise moment when the whole trial hangs on a clean hit.

By any shooting man's standards, being a "gun" at a licensed field trial ranks as the Olympics of scatter gunning. While I may have a tendency to tighten up a bit prior to calling for a clay pigeon in skeet or trap, it is nothing compared to the experience of watching a bird thrower swinging a full grown "cackling" cock pheasant into full flight.

Sounds simple, anyone can hit a big bird like a pheasant, but on the other hand it's par for the course to have a judge calmly tell the Captain of the Guns that he wants a pheasant or duck dropped exactly behind that third tree on the left and if possible please have it land behind that little bush, not in front of it. All of which will be from 40 to 60 yards away.

Having received his instructions, all the gunner has to do is watch the bird from the instant it is released, accurately gauge its speed, direction and potential trajectory after it is hit. Once those simple factors are determined it is an obvious step to decide at which point in the air the bird must be hit in order to properly perform its bounden duties.

**Tribute to dog—the one absolutely unselfish friend that a man can have in this world**

When the bird reaches such a predetermined position just shoulder your gun and blaze away. Pure mechanics will do the rest. In other words, if you have calculated mass, velocity, trajectory and windage—oh yes, and if the bird flies in the right direction—it will dutifully fall behind the little bush behind the third tree on the left.

If not, however, the judge is bound to utter the most awesome words that can fall on the ears of a trial gunner "No bird — Pick up your dog," meaning that the poor handler and dog, both standing on a mental bed of red hot coals, must slowly throttle back those pent up emotions, turn calmly on their heels and proceed back to the waiting line.

As a handler I have experienced this sinking sen-



Field trial gunning is not competitive shooting and usually there are two guns per bird with instructions for both guns to shoot. Field trial gunners are usually the best wing shots available, as a miss, cripple, or a bird downed too close can ruin a dog's chance in the highly competitive field trials.



sation but I think the trophy for emotional fortitude must go to Dick Humphrey of Boca Grande who once made five successive trips to the line before the trial gunners were successful in properly dispatching a bird according to the trial judges instructions.

To one who has been a field trial "gun," they, not the dogs, the handlers, the trainers, nor the judges, but only the gunners are the unsung heroes of any and all field trials involving the use of guns.

This is the kind of rifle-barrel shotgunning in which the side-by-side double gun has a distinct advantage over the pump or automatic because one tube can be bored open and the second can be full choke for that last ditch chance to pull yourself out of a hole by connecting with the second shot after the first misses its mark.

The next statement may lead to some heated discussion but I feel that while the repeaters, and auto loading shotguns are tremendous guns in their place and while they may be loaded with as many as five rounds, once the choke is honed into that one barrel then its range is fixed and there is no time between shots at a field trial to reach up to that muzzle and tighten a multiple choke device.

The only salvation or dodge I have noted some single tube field trial gunners employ is to make the second shot one of the heavier loads such as a two and three quarter inch magnum four.

Everyone wants to shoot the guns and blaze away at flying pheasant pigeons or ducks and perhaps everyone is entitled to such an opportunity at least once. Generally speaking once is enough and the experience of shooting under the scrutiny of judges, handlers, dogs, gallery and even bird boys is somewhat terrifying. Don't, however, feel rained upon if you are not asked to "gun" at a field trial as the Captain of the Guns is responsible for the shooting ability of his gunners and any sincere Captain is going to search the countryside for the best qualified guns he can find.

### **Tribute To A Dog**

GEORGE GRAHAM VEST was born in Frankfort, Kentucky, in 1830 and lived on the so called "Corner of Celebrities," a city block that has produced nine U. S. senators, six U. S. congressmen, two U. S. supreme court justices, two U. S. cabinet officers, nine governors, three admirals and seven high-ranking diplomats. Thousands of people each year visit the splendid homes of this famous block in Kentucky's capital.

After moving to Missouri to practice law, Vest became a senator in the confederacy during the Civil War and later a U. S. senator for 25 years. Famous and respected as he was, however, he achieved immortality for something quite apart from his statesmanship.



Breeds of hunting dogs can be like new car models—they are all good and all different. The selection of the dog is a matter of personal preference and type of hunting.

In 1870 Senator Vest had a client named Charles Burden whose favorite hound, Old Drum, had been shot by a neighbor, Leonides Hornsby, allegedly for killing sheep. Burden sued Hornsby for damages. Hornsby promptly retained another U. S. senator for counsel, the renowned Francis M. Cockrell, and the case attracted wide attention.

Senator Cockrell was an extremely competent attorney. He did a superlative job, marshalling his facts before the court into a completely convincing argument to justify the killing of a marauding dog.

Senator Vest didn't refute him. He called no witnesses, cited no precedents and offered no legal argument. Instead he simply stood before the jury and talked quietly for a minute or so about the nature of a dog.

His gentle, moving eulogy faded away into a dead silence. Then a storm of wild applause that no gavel could silence swept the courtroom. Everyone present was visibly affected, many people weeping unashamedly.

Senator Vest won a unanimous verdict and his tribute to man's best friend became a joy and a treasure to dog-lovers of all ages. the world over. This is what he said to the jury:

"Gentlemen of the Jury: — The best friend a  
(Continued on next page)



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man has in this world may turn against him and become his enemy. His son or daughter that he has reared with loving care may prove ungrateful. Those who are nearest and dearest to us, those whom we trust with our happiness and our good name, may become traitors to their faith. The money that a man has, he may lose. It flies away from him, perhaps in a moment of ill-considered action. The people who are prone to fall on their knees to do us honor when success is with us, may be the first to throw the stone of malice when failure settles its cloud upon our heads.

"The one absolutely unselfish friend that man can have in this selfish world, the one that never deserts him, the one that never proves ungrateful or treacherous, is his dog. A man's dog stands by him in prosperity and in poverty, in health and in sickness. He will sleep on the cold ground, where the wintry winds blow and the snow drives fiercely, if only he may be near his master's side. He will kiss the hand that has no food to offer; he will lick the wounds and sores that come in encounter with the roughness of the world. He guards the sleep of his pauper master as if he were a prince. When all other friends desert, he remains. When riches take wings and reputation falls to pieces, he is as con-

stant in his love as the sun in its journey through the heavens.

"If fortune drives the master forth an outcast in the world, friendless and homeless, the faithful dog asks no higher privilege than that of accompanying him, to guard him against danger, to fight against his enemies. And when the last scene of all comes, and death takes his master in its embrace and his body is laid away, there by the grave-side, will the noble dog be found, his head between his paws, his eyes sad, but open in alert watchfulness, faithful and true even in death."

### Companions of the Hunt

HUNTING IS NEVER fully appreciated until the hunter buys a dog, trains him and then enjoys the fruits of his labor.

Since I was a wee tad of a lad, hunting has been my favorite outdoor recreational sport, but I never really knew the thrill of the game until I acquired a qualified sporting dog. Not that the wide range of assorted four legged beast of my youth did not provide me with unlimited pleasures but my really first qualified hunting dog did not arrive on the scene until later years.

Sporting dog breeds are like new car models, they are all good and all different. It's a matter of personal preference and type of hunting.

Many hunters pride themselves with the long lists of famous ancestors their dog sports, but the most important thing is, can he hunt? Without the keen nose, the pulsating drive and the desire to hunt and to please, a dog's pedigree is worthless.

My retriever was only eight months old when he made his first retrieve on the opening day of duck hunting season. Shortly before sunrise (this was quite a few years ago and it was legal to shoot one half hour before sunrise) a lone mallard made the mistake of being fooled by my decoys. A single shot downed the bird, a cripple with a broken wing.

No command was necessary as my pup entered the water and was half way to the duck before it hit the water. A quick chase, recovery and return to the boat with his prize. This truly was a sight to behold and while I may have popped a button with pride over my shot and the performance of the pup, I could see even more pleasure and pride in the eyes of my black dog.

There is, indeed, a mutual bond between dog and hunter. They are a team, working for the same thing, each contributing his share.

September and October is the height of the dog training season and there is still time to get yourself a hunting partner. When sunrise, on opening day rolls around you'll be a fortunate hunter if you have a four-partner at your side. ●



The early fall season is excellent for dog training. When hunting season opens, it is the trained canine that proves the best of hunting companions afield.





# The SPARROW HAWK

The Sparrow Hawk's name doesn't  
mean anything because he  
rarely attacks small birds

By WALLACE HUGHES

The Sparrow Hawk's nest may be in a natural cavity or deserted woodpecker hole in a tree; in building openings and crevices, or birdhouses with three inch openings. The four or five white eggs with brown spots will hatch in 29 days.

Photo By Leonard Lee Rue III

**T**HE SPARROW HAWK is a common bird of the open country and roadsides throughout Florida. It is most often seen perched on a telephone pole or wire, fence post, or atop a dead tree. From these exposed lookouts, it keeps a sharp eye out for its favorite food—grasshoppers! In fact, it eats so many grasshoppers it should be named Grasshopper Hawk rather than Sparrow Hawk. It also eats other insects such as crickets, beetles, caterpillars and dragonflies, as well as mice, lizards, snakes and small birds. Typical hunting behavior is to hover in one spot in mid-air, wings beating rapidly, then to drop suddenly to the ground to pick up its prey.

Rural folks know the Sparrow Hawk as "Killy Hawk" because of its high, shrill cry, sounding like "killy-killy-killy." It is the smallest member of the Falcon branch of the hawk and eagle family of birds. As with other hawks, the female is larger and more powerful than the male. Females average about 11 inches long, have a wingspread of 24 inches, and weigh about four ounces. Three ounce males average 9½ inches long, and have a wingspread of 21 inches. ●







The visiting angler must remember  
that even the very best  
fishing areas have "off-periods"

By CHARLES WATERMAN

**A** FRIEND OF MINE got on an airplane on Ohio, stepped off it in South Florida and into a boat with me. Twenty minutes later we stopped at a bend in a mangrove river and the snook struck everything we put into the water.

My friend had never seen such fishing but he accepted it calmly, taped his burned thumb, massaged his sore arm and went back to Ohio. Six months later he came back and wanted to know where all those fish were. I'd been unable to convince him it wasn't always like that. I think he was a little disappointed when he returned the second time.

Another fellow I know caught a 12-pound bass on his first day of Florida fishing. Asked if he wanted to have it mounted he said he thought he'd eat it and get a bigger one tomorrow. Residents who



Panfish don't get much publicity but Florida has them by the millions, and they can be taken with many kinds of tackle. Wimpy Steerman, left, of DeLand, chose a fly rod for this bream. Big bonefish, above, can be caught within sight of the highway in the Florida Keys. The fisherman is Buddy Nordmann who landed this one at Key Largo.

# FISHING

have tried for years to catch a 10-pounder weep with frustration when they hear that story.

New residents of Florida who invite their "back home" friends to come down for a little fishing will learn that Florida sport is seldom classed with what you get anywhere else. Any comparison is likely derogatory to the Florida fishing and comes out like this:

"Why I've caught fish this big at home."

So if you have taken on the task of amateur guide for guests you have your work cut out for you unless you temper your invitations with a little moderation about what to expect. I've been lucky a few times, and I've also taken a beating.

I hope the foregoing convinces prospective Florida visitors that the best fishing in the world has its





George Radel, of Coral Gables, picks up a few bass with his fly fishing tackle, on the St. Johns River, near Astor. The fishing tourists can pretty well choose his own angling weapons for Florida's salt and fresh waters.

# TOURIST

off days—and off-weeks too, and, frankly, I spend a lot of time quashing wild stories about fantastic fishing which certainly does exist here—but not always. An inquiry as to how the fishing looks is just as important in Florida as in Minnesota or North Carolina.

The fishing tourist can probably get some good fishing if he's willing to plan his trip loosely and move on if he hits poor conditions at his first stop. This makes it rough on resort operators who would like to have confirmed reservations and it is frequently highly inconvenient for the traveler but is a doggoned good way to find fish.

Let's take up specific cases.

There's the traveler for whom fishing is just a sidelight of the trip and who doesn't even bring his

tackle. If he doesn't want to dig up a guide's pay the two best bets for him are roadside panfishing and salt water bridges and piers.

You won't drive far in Florida without seeing someone fishing a roadside ditch or pond and most of these people are after panfish and using cane poles. A fishing license and a dollar or so in equipment will put you into that business. Not all roadside ditches are full of bream but where you see someone already at it, chances are pretty good. Roadside signs advertise bait almost any time you get into fishing areas.

The panfish limits are liberal and that's the easiest way to get them although more refined tackle such as a fly rod or ultra-light spinning outfit multiplies the fun. Panfishing is good enough in Florida that hundreds of anglers come here solely for that kind of fishing and take home some hefty limits on ice. A lot of catfish come out of the roadside ditches too.

Bank fishing isn't easy in Florida after you get away from the road; too much vegetation and swamp land—so don't count too much on walking the shores of the bigger lakes and rivers.

Fishing salt water from the beach takes special equipment and experience. It's generally a waste of time for the beginner.

Big salt water deal for the casual tourist is the fishing pier which doesn't cost much and puts you far enough out into the ocean or Gulf that you're sure to be over some kind of fish. At the land end you can learn what is being caught and you can usually rent tackle if you need it. Once you're out on the pier you can get the word from experienced regulars.

Most pier fishing doesn't require heavy tackle. When there are runs of big snook, channel bass or cobia you need pretty husky gear but standard fresh water casting tackle is fine for the usual bluefish and Spanish mackerel. Cane poles are pretty much out of the question though because you're high above the water.

There's good pier fishing the year around with pretty regular runs at some points. For example, at Panama City beach they expect cobia early in April. Fresh water fishermen must understand that salt water fish are migratory and that today's teeming pier of eager fish—catchers may be just a long, sleepy sun deck tomorrow.

The party boat is a good bet for salt water fishing and needs a little explanation. Such a boat carries a large number of customers at a set fee and tackle is furnished although you can use your own if you prefer.

The "party boat" is sometimes called a "reef boat," a "bottom boat," "drift boat" or simply "head boat." The term "head boat" comes from the system of charging so much per head for fishermen.

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A "charter boat" is something else and on the East Coast it almost invariably means an offshore trolling boat that caters to small parties, generally of no more than six. These boats usually carry a crew of two.

Charter skippers are generally happy to mix their party; that is, the cost of charter can be shared among fishermen who never knew each other before the trip was arranged. The best known target of such boats on the Atlantic side is the sailfish but charter boats work lesser species such as mackerel, dolphin and kingfish. They generally go out to the Gulfstream or near to it.

Generally (and if I didn't deal in generalities in this article I never would finish) the East Coast and Keys charter boats are more on the fancy side than those on the Gulf. There's a reason because many of those on the west side of the state operate in bays and touchy passes where shallow draft is important and the glossier craft are out of place. On the West Coast, where the Gulf Stream is a long way out, the fishing concentrates more on tarpon and other shallow water game.

In fact, some of the Gulf charter boats, many of which have plain shelter cabins or no cabins at all, are simply called "tarpon boats." All of the charter boats I know of will furnish tackle.

Bonefishing, salt water trout fishing and much tarpon and snook hunting are done from skiffs and many guides operate no other way. One of the plushiest (and most expensive) ways of chartering is to take a cruiser to live aboard and tow skiffs to be used in light tackle fishing. This is common in the Keys and on the lower West Coast.

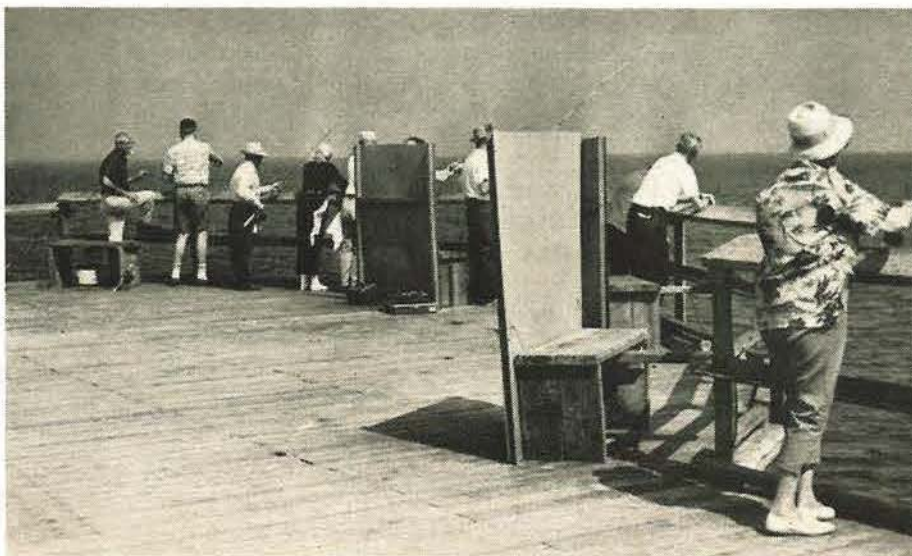
If a visitor wants some fish to take home with him he should make the proper arrangements with his guide or captain. Many of the salt water species are salable and some chartermen count on that added revenue as part of their income so an understanding should be reached before the trip starts.

Most fresh water guides operate by the day from

a resort on their own dock and use outboard boats. I know of only one guide who regularly uses a live-aboard cruiser and towed skiffs for bass fishing.

Black bass is No. 1 for most fresh water guides and I believe that the crappie (speckled perch) is second. The third kind of fishing in order of frequency would be bluegills and other common sunfishes such as stumpknockers, shellcrackers and warmouth perch.

If you hire a fresh water guide you'll probably use your own tackle. Most of them bear down on live bait fishing rather than artificials and the



A husky grouper, above, is headed for the fish box on a party boat named Marianne, sailing out of a port near Daytona Beach. Probably the easiest and most comfortable fishing "trip" of all is simply the short walk, left, to the end of one of Florida's many salt water fishing piers. Backs on the seats are intended to protect the sitters from wild casters. Kingfishing, at right, is fast and furious on Ed Towell's boat off Naples. Fishing tourists can find plenty, besides sailfish, in the offshore waters.



baitcaster, spinner or fly fisherman should make diplomatic inquiry before signing on with a guide who may view his fishing method with scorn, ignorance or both.

There are many freshwater guides who use bait with all of their customers but take artificials when they go fishing alone. There are several reasons for using bait, the main one being that it can be productive even for a fisherman who doesn't know what it's all about. The guide can bait the hook and get it into the water, after which he can do the fishing by maneuvering the boat. He can tell his client when to set the hook and can direct him in playing his fish. A pair of greenhorns with any kind of casting tackle is pure poison for a professional guide who is expected to produce fish no matter what kind of people he's guiding.

The ideal position for an oarsman with two casters is the center of the boat with a fisherman in the bow and one in the stern but not many guides do it this way simply because they want to be able to keep an eye on the fisherman. So generally, the guide sits in one end and rows or "pushes" the boat.

Many of the big bass specialists among guides actually troll big shiners, using oars from the bow of the boat and fishing two sports in the stern. In still water they row along quietly and slowly giving the shiners a chance to work. When in current they simply head the bow upstream and drift with the bait "running" below them (preceding the stern downstream). You may figure there's nothing to live bait fishing and possibly the customers don't have to be geniuses but some guides are true artists with such a setup, deftly showing the baits to every fish in their neck of the woods.

Most speckled perch or crappie are caught on small minnows still fishing or drifting and most tourists can usually pick up this method after one day with a guide. I think the greatest concentration of "speck" fishermen is at Lake Okeechobee

but there are hundreds of other good spots. The cool "tourist months" are crappie time and spinning tackle, spin-cast rigs or cane poles will do the job.

In general, the largest bass are caught in late winter and early spring. Late spring and early fall are tops for fly fishing both for bass and panfish. The plastic worm and its relatives are used all year around and are just as deadly as ever. The St. Johns River shad run generally gets going around Christmas time and runs into April. The best concentrations of crappie are during the cooler months.

Salt water fishing is tough to forecast with the exception of certain well-defined runs. Best of the Florida sailfishing is likely to come around New Years off the lower East Coast. Fort Pierce is a good town to hunt for if you're looking at a map.

Spring and fall are best for bonefish on the Keys and Biscayne flats although the appearance of these fish depends entirely on water temperatures. Often winter chill drives them from the shallows entirely and the shallow flats can get too hot in midsummer.

Tarpon are present in the Keys and on southern coasts the year around but May is apt to be top month in the Keys as well as farther up the Gulf Coast. Speckled trout or weakfish are caught the year around. In winter, weakfish are primarily in deep holes and they're taking on shallow grass flats during the warmer months with surface and semi-surface lures. Among the most democratic of salt water species, they can be taken with baitcasting, fly or spinning tackle. The most popular natural bait is the shrimp. Although the larger fish seem to come from the East Coast, the Gulf has a reputation for greater numbers.

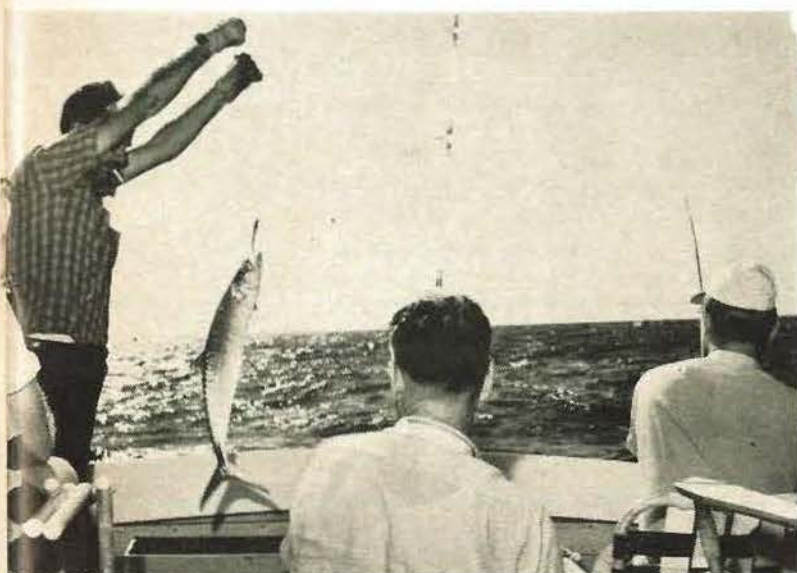
Almost any black bass fisherman will be at home with Florida bigmouths. Much of the best fishing is in grass, coontail moss and lily pads or bonnets and weedless lures are helpful.

In some waters, schooling bass (fish which school up to strike bait on top) seem to be much less prevalent than a few years back. Shoreline fishing has given way to grass flat and bonnet fishing on some rivers and the most commonly offered explanations are boat traffic and hyacinth control.

The shallow canals and lakes of the Everglades areas depend upon rainfall and up-to-date information is absolutely essential for good results, which brings us to the business of information-seeking in general.

From 2000 miles away, a prospective tourist can get plenty of general information by writing to Chambers of Commerce but this information is vague with regard to the time of year the fishing will produce. It's purposely vague in most cases as long range fishing forecasts generally get the forecaster nothing but trouble.

An efficient, cold-blooded way of getting good  
(Continued on page 34)







Many expert bowmen consider camouflage, at left, even to face mask and the bow, important to obtain close-range shots. At right, what every bowhunter dreams of—a buck deer crossing a backwoods road—offering a clean, open target.

## Special archery hunts will add zest to early bowhunting schedules

By EDMUND McLAURIN

**F**LORIDA BOWHUNTING as a sport has been merely stumbling along after a series of recent year ills, but bids fair to prove that it again can be hunting season's major attraction.

Formerly discouraged—and disgusted—bowhunters are talking with much the enthusiasm and anticipation that was theirs during Florida bowhunting's peak year a few seasons ago, when a record number of bowhunters took out the special archery permits, and when toxophilites generally were as contented as any large group can ever be.

A tonic for the sick sport is the Game Commission's scheduling of several bowhunting periods ahead of the regular gun season, and supplementary special hunts after most of the powder burners have called it quits.

Three big bowhunting attractions are represented by open season in the Citrus Game Management Area, October 16 through October 31 and week-end hunting on November 6-7, 13-14, 20-21, 25-28 and December 4-5; in Ocala Management Area, October 23 through October 31, with hunting every day; at Eglin Military Reservation (in Northwest Florida), October 23 through November 7, again

with the privilege of hunting every day. For those who seek deer, bucks only will be the legal bag in all areas.

As a wind-up to the bowhunting season, special wild hog hunts are scheduled for the Guano River Wildlife Management Area (in St. Johns County) on five consecutive week ends, beginning the week end of January 22-23 and ending the week end of February 19-20.

From the year of its first sponsored bow hunt (on the Ocala Management Area), the Game Commission has tried to increase the scope of bowhunting activity without discriminating against the more numerous gun hunters. Expression of opinion has been encouraged—by letter and at open meetings held in various sections of the state.

One thing both gun hunters and bowhunters seemingly want, and that is to have all the bowhunting begin and end before statewide gun hunting starts, except in specially designated areas. This policy is being carried out. Except for the Citrus Area season overlap and special wild hog hunts of late January and February, all bowhunting activity will run course and end prior to November 16, the



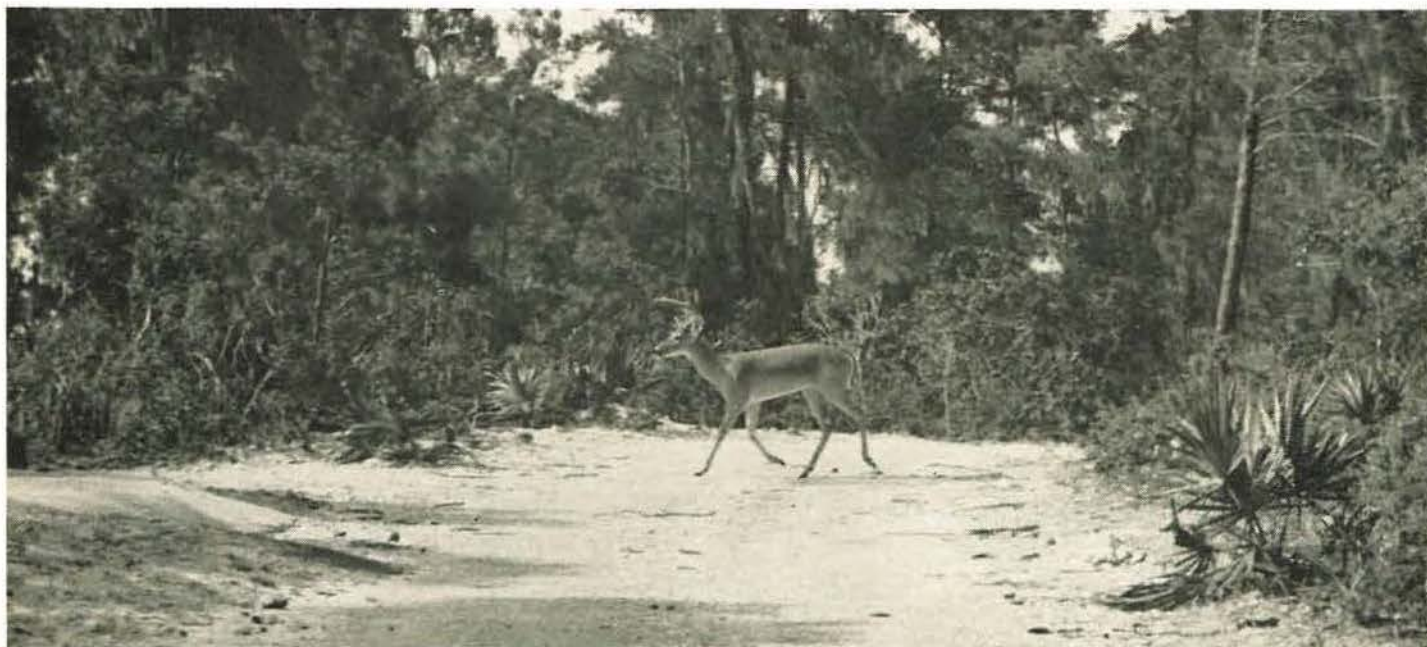


Photo by Bob Brantly

# Let's Go Bowhunting!

date the general gun hunting season begins in most Districts.

Actually, the earlier dates are to the advantage of deer-seeking bowhunters. Game is apt to be more plentiful and—more important—less wary. Persons who like to both bow hunt and gun hunt can do both under the present open season system.

Shooting from a tree stand requires special practice because the angle of aim is different. Most beginners overshoot their target.



The year that the bowhunting in the Citrus Game Management Area was set to open simultaneously with the general statewide gun hunting season was an experiment that bowhunters do not wish to see repeated—ever! The basis for widespread objection is not alarm about hunting safety (for the Citrus Area during the calendar period was closed to gun hunting), but because of the conflict of hunting interests and available time. Faced with having to make a choice, many otherwise enthusiastic bowhunters will lay aside their bows in favor of powder class weapons.

Another boost to Florida bowhunting could be restoration of the once allotted doe kill in the Citrus area, and possibly inclusion of the same privilege in other areas where game biologists decree a reasonable doe harvest can be made.

Undeniably, successful hunting of deer with bow and arrow requires a certain degree of skill, combined with beneficial experience and contributory hunting luck. For this reason, many women—comparative beginners in the art of bowhunting—feel their chances of getting within sure killing distance of a buck are somewhat slim. Without the incentive of a possible doe kill, few feel that investment in equipment and licenses justifies participation. Many men feel the same. Full family participation must have both incentive and hope.

One thing certain: No authorized doe kill for bowhunters will ever constitute a threat to basic breeding stock; deer kills—regardless of sex of the animal—don't come easy for even the experts! Kill records of the Game Commission reflect the fact

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that in past legal doe seasons the bowhunters have never harvested their full quota.

An annual allotment of does for the scheduled bow hunts would greatly increase total interest and participation.

Active participation in the major Florida bow hunts scheduled for this season will require a special \$5.00 archery permit in addition to regular state hunting license.

The one \$5.00 archery permit, matched to a regular state hunting license, will be good for three of the main events—the Guano River Area hunt; the October 23-31 period in the Ocala Management Area, and for all the bowhunting dates designated for the Citrus Game Management Area. Eglin Field Military Reservation bowhunting will have its own special, low cost, Air Force-issued permit—required in addition to regular state hunting license. Consult coming season regulations available from county judge offices and any of the Regional Offices of the Game Commission, for specific information.

The one \$5.00 embrace hunt permit is good news to many bowmen—especially those who wish to bowhunt in different areas, or who must purchase several special archery permits for family member use. For them, the tariff remains the same, but hunting scope is broadened.

Bowhunting is not a cheap sport, although after you acquire essential items of tackle your expenditures for maintenance at peak efficiency will largely be for lost or broken arrows and new bowstrings.

A good hunting bow can cost more than a big game rifle; however, from \$50 to \$70 is a price bracket that should equip you nicely.

A dozen quality arrows will be around \$15, and the same number in broadhead hunting style will cost you from \$20 to \$30, on the average.

In addition, you'll need an arm guard (about \$3.50); a good shooting glove (\$2.50); quiver (\$10 to \$20); bowstring silencer and arrow holder (\$2.00); small file and arrow sharpening stone (\$2.50), and extra bowstring and bowstring wax (\$2.00). You may wish to add a KAMO mottled camouflage pattern suit (about \$11); a matching KAMO bowcover (\$1.25); a bow sight (from \$3.00 to \$39.50 or more); a folding stool on which to sit during the long hours of motionless vigil alongside a game trail (\$1.50 to \$8.00); a Miracle Lure deer scent dispenser and scent (\$3.00), and whatever other items strike your fancy.

When purchasing your first bow, don't make the mistake of trying to get all the bow power you can for your money; as a rule, a hunting bow that requires from 45 to 55 pounds of pressure to draw it to 28 inches will serve you best. Many hunters prefer bows of lighter poundage. The important thing is not to use a bow that you cannot fully draw and aim steadily and release smoothly.

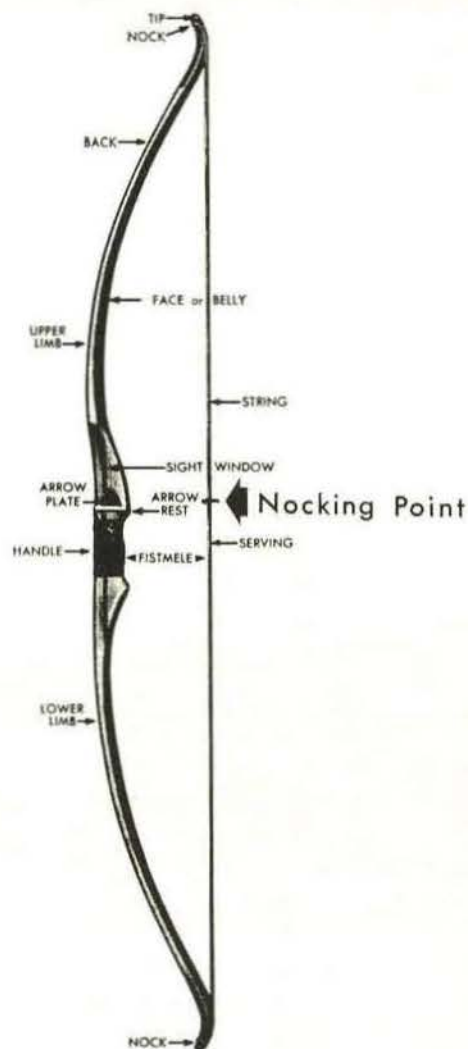


Diagram of a bow, naming the various parts and showing location on bowstring of very important nocking point.

Short length bows, like certain of the popular 54 and 62-inch Bradshaw (B&B) models, are easier to handle in brush. Many a chance at game has been spoiled because the tip of a long bow touched or caught on brush as the hunter prepared to shoot.

The laminated type of bow, comprising layers of Fiberglas and wood, have supplanted the once widely used solid osage orange, yew and lemonwood bows as well as the solid Fiberglas and the aluminum bows. The latter two types usually impart noticeable "shock" or vibration to the shooter when an arrow is drawn and released.

The ability to smoothly and uniformly draw a powerful hunting bow for controlled shots must be acquired through practice—every day if you can, but at least twice a week, until arm and shoulder muscles have mastered the spring-like resistance of the bow and can complete a full draw and hold it long enough to effect accurate aim and controlled arrow release.

Unless one has a backyard range, or lives close to a club range, actual practice is not always convenient to carry out on regular schedule. Even for



"dry" practice at home, many bowmen are reluctant to get out and string a stored bow for only two or three dozen "dry" practice draws. For these spiritually willing, but procrastinating souls, there is now a strong steel spring exerciser, with a handle shaped like a grip on a bow and fitted with a sight for aiming at a provided target. The pull rod simulates a bow string and is gripped the same way. Practice can be carried out anywhere, without advance preparation. The exercisers come in various pounds of pull at standard 28 inches draw. Pulling and aiming one 25 to 50 times daily will soon build arm and shoulder muscles until you can easily draw and aim any bow with a draw equivalent to the pounds of pull of the exerciser. (Product is Kilbow Exerciser, available in a range of 25 to 75 pounds pull at 28 inches draw.)

Target or hunting style, arrows should be matched to each other for spine (stiffness of shaft), length and weight, so they are as nearly identical as possible and are also of the correct spine for the bow's drawing weight. Creason's Archery Supply, Tampa, manufactures many of the top-grade arrows used by Florida bowhunters. Certain of the broadhead styles are especially in demand and are nationally famous.

Although three feather fletching is commonly seen on hunting arrows, four feather fletching is preferable, experts say. Because there is no cock feather to first note and turn out, the nocking of an arrow—especially for a follow-up second shot—can be made faster. Also, the hunting style arrow, with its heavier head, should have stiffer shaft spine and considerably longer feather fletching to better stabilize the broadhead in flight.

A pre-determined nocking point on the bowstring

is very important; it should regularly place the arrow about  $\frac{1}{8}$  to  $\frac{3}{16}$  of an inch above the square (determined by placing a T or an L-shaped carpenter's square on the arrow rest and letting it extend back until the short length of the T or L square touches the bowstring uniformly). Most hunters hand-serve the nocking point, but the new aluminum ring markers make the job easier and faster.

Some bowhunters like an arrow holder on their bows, and some do not. A holder keeps the arrow in ready position on the arrow rest until the archer starts his draw, then releases automatically. There are several types, but the one that mounts off the inside of the bow is probably best, as there is less movement of the device when it releases the arrow, important to the hunter trying to keep visible weapon movement to the minimum.

Angling rays of morning or afternoon sun on a varnished bow limb can reflect light like a mirror and be a long range warning to any game that chances to spot the flashing signals. Too often, the give-away reflections are unknown to the stalking hunter.

Smart bowmen are camouflaging their bows by slipping on KAMO net covers, by taping bow limbs with camouflage tape or by painting with non-reflective pigments. The first method is much preferred and most convenient. Actually, many fine bows are really too beautiful of wood and workmanship to cover up with tape or daubed-on dull paint! Merely slipping off the elastic KAMO cover converts the bow to the attractive dress that the manufacturer gave it.

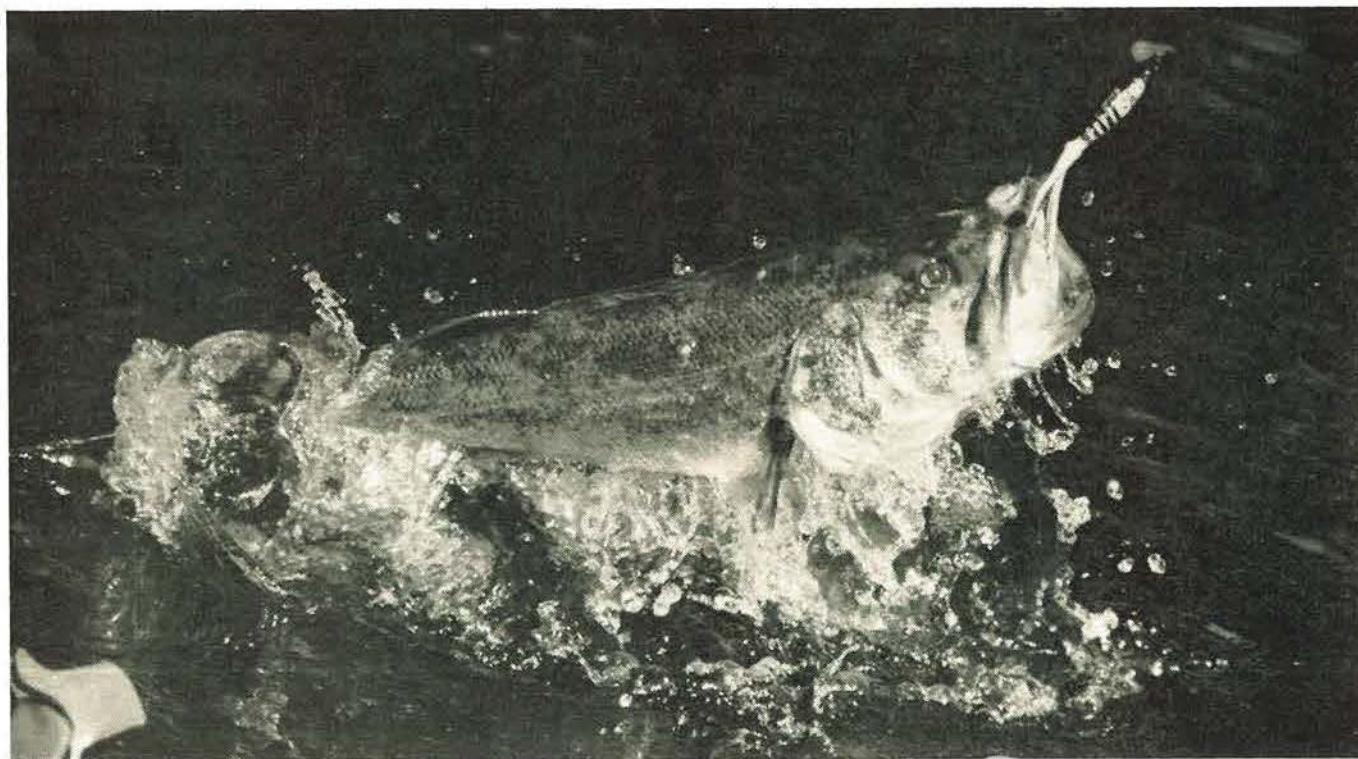
For a long time, many bowhunters who used the instinctive method of aiming their weapons derided

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Skill with the bow requires lots of practice, and good equipment. Although a practice session two or three times a week will prove helpful, daily workouts are best.







# BASS DILEMMA

The largemouth bass, in South Florida's marsh and canal areas, face continued decline unless efforts towards a "new day" creation are expanded

By **MIKE GADDIS**  
Biologist, Fisheries Division

**R**ECENTLY I WAS FISHING in one of the most beautiful lakes in Florida for my favorite game fish, the large-mouth black bass. Late afternoon shadows fell across the calm, and the quiet water was molten with colors spawned by the reflection of the last rays of the setting sun on huge cypress and hardwood. Ancient cypress knees combined with dark blue waters and intermittent cattail, and an overhanging canopy of Spanish moss, lend to the scene the reverence of a chapel.

I quietly laid down my spinning gear and picked up the bait-casting rod and an old wooden, glass-eyed injured minnow, as it seemed to me that to use anything else would be a violation of heritage. As I looked around at all the beautiful places for a cast, I thought to myself that the Lord must have consulted a bass fisherman before the creation of this lake. I finally picked the base of a great and age-wrinkled cypress stump surrounded with cattail for my cast. The plug had been on the water a full half-minute when I twitched it for the first time. If it had been another time at another place I would have been on the edge of my seat waiting for the heavy boil that must follow, but this time there was no strike; indeed, there had been only a few strikes the entire day.

Very likely there would be no more before dark. For this lake had suffered the same fate that many of its sister waters had been subject to in southeastern Florida. Over the last several years bass fishing success had declined to the point that, for the last three years, it hardly warranted the bass fisherman's time.

Although there are still some places in South Florida where bass fishing remains excellent, some of the best places which were old stand-bys in bygone days have evolutionized into the situation described above. While this has been true of both lakes and canals, it is especially notable in canals. And with the vast network of canals which course between Lake Okeechobee and Homestead, and the sparseness of lakes, it is of course natural that the canals are of top concern in fish management work.

The factors which have turned the tide in the areas in question are, in some cases, subject to isolation, but more often are intertwined in complexes which defy the biologist's understanding. Most of the areas in which bass fishing has suffered greatly have been the victims of certain physical changes in the environment which produced profound and varied conditions in the biota. Probably, in all cases, the fishing decline can be traced directly



or indirectly to the massive populational influx which Florida, especially southern Florida, has undergone in the last two decades. Thousands of people by necessity require thousands of homes, and thousands of homes dictate a large land mass for their construction. Thus the old south Florida with its once extensive marshlands has been drained of much of its dignity to make way for housing developments and expanding towns. The nature of these drainage and construction programs has left a decided mark on the environment, and a member of its progeny, the Largemouth Bass.

In the case of the South Florida lakes, of which there are few, the bass population decline can probably be attributed to a natural phenomenon which is often a fundamental truth in the biology of large bodies of water. Such lakes progress thru three life ages; a lake may be said to be young, prime, or senile. A young lake is an expanding lake fish-population-wise for both forage and predator species. In the young years the game-rough fish ratio is balanced in favor of the game fish and food production is approaching a maximum. Under such conditions, assuming suitable spawning area, a bass population will flourish.

As populational growths slow and level off, in response to the carrying capacity of the lake it-

self, that is, the standing poundage of fish a lake is able to support dependent on its fertility, the lake reaches its prime. It is during this time that the forage-predator ratio is most nearly equal. Bass fishing will be at its best in terms of numbers, and many large fish will be taken. But it is also during this period that undesirable species begin to exhibit the growth which will turn the balance.

In the last phase, the lake is senile in terms of bass production. Primary game fish populations have evolutionized into secondary game fish populations and undesirable species, with fewer natural enemies and greater ability to withstand adverse conditions in the environment. The largemouth bass seems to be the foremost fish to suffer under these conditions. Due to the severe competition and high population density of other species, growth and reproduction are reduced to a minimum. In this stage the lake will usually yield poor bass fishing as a whole, but may yield a few very large adults.

The latter case has been observed in certain lakes in South Florida where once-strong bass populations have evolutionized into populations of black crappie, channel cat, gar and mudfish.

Where it does not seem feasible that the aforementioned sequence has occurred in a lake, the true factors are very often cryptic and elusive to the biologist and require a great deal of research for discovery. Quite a bit of research aimed at uncovering the complete story of declining lakes is presently being conducted by Commission biolo-

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In many of the South Florida bass fishing waters, the garfish, above, and mudfish have replaced the fighting largemouth black bass, upper left. Such changes are mostly in the complex network of canals found throughout the peninsula, south of Lake Okeechobee, right. Of prime concern to the fish management worker is the research programs needed to improve canal bass fishing.







Fishermen congregate along a South Florida canal. The anglers seeking largemouth bass are apt to return home disappointed. During the past several years bass fishing success has declined to the point that, in some areas, it hardly warrants the bass fisherman's time to even try.

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gists, and when such discoveries are made, they will give increased insight into the problems of management.

Of the factors which may be isolated concerning canals, probably the most important has been the drainage of marshlands. Research biologists have found definite proof that a canal which is bordered by an intermittent marsh produces a much greater poundage of bass and other game fish than does a canal completely void of marsh area; consequently, it provides much better fishing. The reason for this is readily understandable when one examines the properties of an intermittent marsh, i.e., a marsh which exists for maybe six months of the year and then during the dry season is pulled back into the canal. During the period when the marsh area maintains, it throws open an ideal littoral zone for spawning adult bass and forage species, and subsequently provides a nursery for the protection and growth of the fry. When the dry season comes and the marsh waters are drawn into the canal, many pounds of forage are taken into the system, which enables maximum growth and expansion of the bass colony.

The canals which are foremost in the memories of veteran South Florida bass fishermen are the same ones that some years ago entertained such a marsh system. But in recent times these canal marshes have been drained or diked to make way for agricultural and urban development, and the resultant marshless canals have declined greatly in production of good bass populations, and their direct result, good bass fishing.

Along the same lines of physical alteration are the channelization tendencies which seem to be inherent in the construction of many of the canals

interlacing the southern part of the state. Such canals are constructed so that the finished product is a deep trough with 90 degree sides. While this remains more economical for the constructor it sounds the death knell for good bass production. The largemouth bass, by nature, does much better where some shallow-water areas, i.e., a littoral zone, prevail. This is especially important in terms of reproductive success, as the bass prefers and needs shallow water regions for spawning.

Rough fish are the next important reality that exists in the bass' repertoire of enemies. While marshless canals reek havoc on bass production, gar and mudfish, especially the former, seem to thrive under the situation. A typical example was found in a recent fish population sample taken from a canal in Dade County where recoveries indicated a gar population exceeding 50 per cent by weight and a bass population of less than 10 per cent. Greater survival potential and fewer natural enemies give such populational outbursts to rough fish. The resultant rough fish population densities give severe competition for food and may repress spawning success.

The problem of pollution has ascended in South Florida fish management until it now holds an unfortunately important position. Domestic and industrial wastes are the culprits, with the latter sustaining top place. The primary offenders in past history have been sugar mills and tomato canneries which neglected to provide adequate disposal facilities. These offenses have become fewer at present due to the cooperation of most factories, and the realization of impending legislature on the part of others.

Unfortunately, however, a more disastrous adversary has entered the picture; the pesticide. Ev-





Preliminary to management plans and recommendations, biologists of the Fisheries Division conduct series of research surveys. A check of this canal's species population brought forth mostly undesirable mudfish.

ery research day many new pesticides are being developed with increased toxicities. Many of these chemicals are in use now, not only in southern Florida, but all over the state. Very minute amounts introduced into an aquatic environment are deadly poisonous not only to fish, but to aquatic invertebrates and bottom organisms. Such a chemical kill not only eliminates the fish population for the present, but may also retard the growth of newly-stocked fish by lowering the natural productivity of the water for a long time afterwards.

The largemouth bass is truly facing a dilemma in South Florida today. Which way the future leads is a moot question. The answer will lie for the most part in future management techniques which must be founded on novel research ascertained facts and new ideas.

The means for intensifying the management program was established under a dollar addition to the annual state fishing license two years ago. This extra dollar goes into the Fishery Improvement Fund administered by the Fishery Division of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission and has given a great boost to the financial arsenal available for the management of Florida fisheries.

The most direct result of Fishery Improvement Funds has been the establishment of Fish Management Areas, which are areas selected for intensive management by the Commission and the Board of County Commissioners of the county in which the body of water is located. Several such areas have been established in the South Florida region. In the Fish Management Area, the Commission, using Fishery Improvement Funds, has the resources available for initiating any management program which it feels is warranted in terms of producing a greater standing fish crop and better fishing. Research relative to novel management techniques



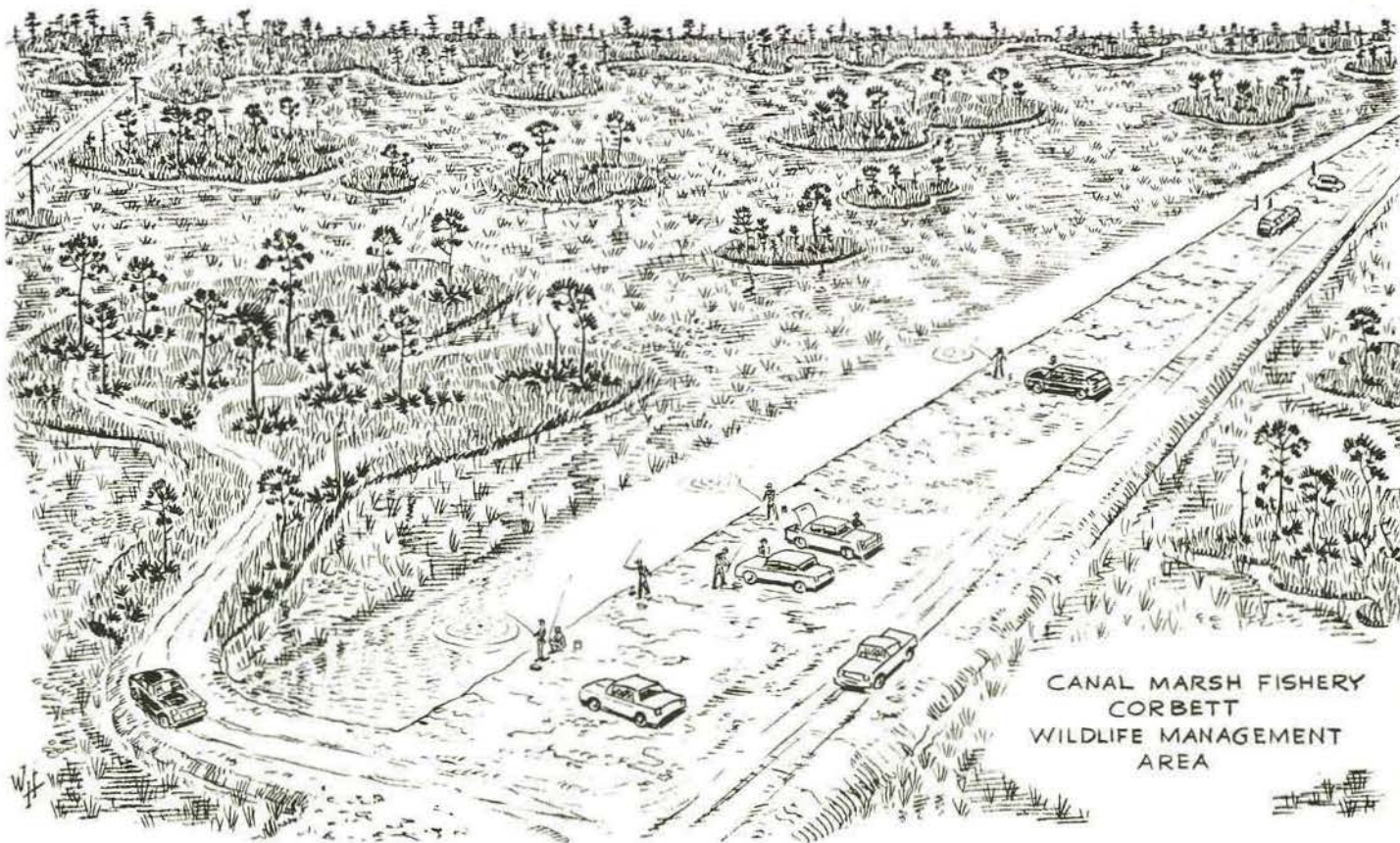
falls hand and hand with the intensive management program. In other words, at the same time that management programs are applied, much valuable information is being attained that will be useful in the management of other waters. In effect, the Fish Management Area serves as a field laboratory as well as providing better fishing for the sportsman.

In this light, South Florida biologists look toward the impending future and must employ techniques of management which are novel as compared to previous standards. The factors playing on a body of water must be analyzed as carefully as possible, and then, based on this analysis, new approaches must be taken in order to gather more data on the do's and don'ts of South Florida bass management.

One flaw that has hampered South Florida biologists for a long time is the lack of prior research on canal management. Actually, even though biologists have made great gains on the problem in recent times, successful canal management still reigns as a bugaboo in the biologist's hair. Indeed, it is almost a new fisheries frontier to be explored, mapped and conquered. As such it offers interest and a great challenge to the fish management technician. Much work is being undertaken at present toward further understanding of the interrelationships existent which are holding down largemouth bass populations in canal situations.

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Included in the possible solutions aimed at the creation of a "new day" for South Florida bass fishing is the proposed development of new canals in the remaining, available marshlands.

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One of the strangest properties of a canal is often discovered when fish samples show a fair percentage of good bass in the total population, yet fishing success remains poor. Usually, however, there are also even greater numbers of rough fish present, and population density most probably plays a major part.

Much work is being done in South Florida aimed at a solution for selectively controlling rough fish populations. At present, there is no chemical available to the biologist which will give a consistent selective kill on gar and mudfish. When such a chemical is discovered the problem may well be on its way to solution. Even now many research stations are screening "candidate" chemicals for the job.

There is some indication that selective electro-shocking in canals may hold down rough fish populations if applied on a calculated schedule. This is another

canal frontier to be examined carefully.

The stigma of marshless canals is being alleviated to some extent by the Fishery Division's creation of new canals in remaining marsh situations which are available. Aimed at the multiple use ideal, two such areas are under proposal for construction on Wildlife Management Areas. One of these areas is proposed near West Palm Beach. If these precedent areas show the promise that is expected the program will most surely be expanded in the future.

The South Florida pollution problem has increased to the point that is demanding a greater and greater amount of the biologists' time. While industrial waste problems are on the decline, pesticide problems are very much on the upswing. Primary offenders in the past and present are the chlorinated hydrocarbons such as DDT, Toxaphene, Heptachlor, and Endrin which are so often used in insect control and

citrus grove spraying. But the much more deadly organic phosphates are appearing more and more frequently. This category includes Chlorothion, Malathion and Parathion, of which the latter is most toxic. Very minute amounts of these chemicals can spell disaster to fish populations. If the present trend continues there will probably be Commission personnel assigned to full-time research on pollution—in industrial, domestic, and pesticidal.

South Florida largemouth bass are beset by many environmental and biological ills at present. Fish management research must rise to render aid. For a fish which has given untold hours of joy to thousands of Florida fishermen, any expenditure toward its welfare will be slight. No other fish has as greatly captured the hearts of his followers as has the Largemouth Black Bass. No other species more deserves a "new day" in South Florida. Intensified management with novel weapons is the guiding light toward this end. ●



# BOATING

Proper stowage, ample sunlight and fresh air, all help to combat the continuous mildew threat

By ELGIN WHITE



**F**OR MY MONEY, October is absolutely, unequivocally the most beautiful month in the year for boating . . . especially in north Florida.

If this month turns out to be as magnificent as last October, boaters in this state ought to have their heads examined for not getting into the lakes, rivers, and even Gulf waters of north Florida to witness the change in scenery.

As a matter of fact, we have a bunch of amateur photographers coming to Florida this month from Chattanooga to take a cruise on the Apalachicola River. These are the same "nuts" who made that 10,000 Islands cruise with us back a couple of February's ago, and they are so eager to come back to Florida E. T. Bales, sports

editor of the News-Free Press in Chattanooga, who is squiring them down, said they're already packing!

Well, I'll tell you . . . after seeing the photo equipment they brought for that sojourn through the Islands, I can see where they oughta be packing! They had everything but C. B. DeMille, Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton!

What they'll see along the Apalachicola will be a darned sight different from what they'll see in the 10,000 Islands, but it'll be well worth the jaunt from Tennessee. Not too many people are enthused about a cruise on the Apalachicola. They pass over it on the bridge at Chattahoochee, see that kinda brownish water, and shrug it off with a "yuk!"

But "yuk" again, fellas. True, the ol' Apalach might not have crystal clear springs and palm trees waving in the breeze, but it is a good river run that'll challenge any boater.

And by the time you get down into the flat-lands around the town of Apalachicola itself you're running into some of the finest boating and fishing country in Florida. Sloughs, creeks, inlets, puddles, and lakes branch out from every corner of Apalachicola like a bunch of adders on a fling.

Too, October 22 and 23 is when they're having the big deal sea food celebration down there, and the Chattanooga choo choos will get their fill of Florida's finest eating commodity . . . good sea food. We hope, too, to get into the Dead Lakes from the Apalachicola, but I don't think we can get all the way in from the river in our outboard. But we can cross a little land and get there by foot, and if you've never seen the Dead Lakes and decide to cruise this region, by all means see 'em. Purtiest part of the country you ever saw!

I'VE HAD A LOT of questions about what to do about mildew. Seems we get a lot of it in Florida because of the humidity, and it really is an old nemesis, all right.

While mildew won't cause permanent harm to most parts of a boat, it will hasten the rotting of canvas products and should be taken care of correctly as soon as it appears.

Under the most humid condi-  
(Continued on next page)



One of the most interesting sights a boatman can see on a run to Apalachicola is the famous shrimp fleet there.



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tions, it is possible to have mildew form all over a boat, while in less humid areas it may show up only in damp, poorly ventilated areas.

The two best ways to combat mildew growth are to make ample use of sunlight and fresh air and the use of mildew-combating chemicals.

Stowing canvas items while they're still damp is the best way in the world to cause mildew. When you return from a run, spread such things out in the cockpit to dry thoroughly. If items such as life jackets are still soggy, take them home to dry. Don't leave a canvas top folded down tightly in damp weather; open it up part way or all the way so air can circulate.

Storage lockers under runabouts decks and cabins of outboard cruisers need all the ventilation they can get if you want to avoid the musty odor of mildew. Marine dealers also carry mildew-proofing solutions for canvas products. After being dipped in one of these solutions and drying, something like a cockpit cover will resist mildew for a season.

Some of the marine paint firms market cabin interior paints which contain mildew-proof chemicals. Fungus-proofing chemicals are also available that can be mixed with any hull, deck or cabin paint.

To remove mildew already on your boat, simply wash with a solution of household bleach and the little gray spots will vanish.

WE'VE HAD REPORTS this past summer from several boating enthusiasts about problems encountered in coping with rough water.

There is a hackneyed phrase, "it's all in knowing how," that might be appropriate when discussing rough water boating. This is an especially good point at this time of the year, too, for many of our Florida skippers will find rough waters on the outside as we enter the mid-point of the hurricane season.



To keep boating safe, check these items before you prepare to set sail: all should be aboard: 1. Proper running lights, 2. life jackets for all aboard, 3. buoyant seat cushions, 4. anchor and line, 5. a bilge pump, 6. distress signal kit, 7. a first aid kit, 8. compass, 9. an air horn, 10. fire extinguisher, 11. at least 50 feet of extra line, 12. lantern.

Many newcomers to the boating field are apprehensive about negotiating a stretch of chop for the first time. Yet, old hands at boating take normal rough water in stride . . . in fact many of them get a thrill out of it.

First of all, they know today's fifteen-sixteen foot outboard boat is more capable than the 13-footers that once led the popularity parade. Secondly, they know the difference between normal weather rough water and bad weather rough water. When storm warnings are hoisted they remain in protected areas.

Good load distribution is vital to getting through rough stretches easily. Most runabouts comfortably carry three persons on the forward or driver's seat. It is well to remember that up forward the hull's bottom is narrow. Many outboards therefore tend to settle by the bow when proceeding at low speed.

When plowing into large waves, experienced skippers have passengers move aft so that most of the load is being carried pretty much amidships. This lets the

bow come up easily to take the waves better.

Equally important is sensible use of the throttle. A boat naturally slows down when climbing the face of a large wave. Often a burst of power is useful. Of course, when sliding down the back of a wave, power should be cut to avoid speed build-up.

Good steering action is necessary in rough water and here's where the outboard and stern drive really shine. A slight turn of the wheel combined with a burst of power is considerably more effective than a rudder in keeping a slowmoving boat headed the way you want it.

JUST RETURNED FROM a trip to New York and if you think we've had drought problems in Florida, you oughta see what they have up there. And there appears to be no solution, either. It is getting so bad up there that you can't get a glass of water in a restaurant unless you ask for it, and just before I left they were thinking about shutting off the water mains entirely (except for emergency uses, such as fire, hospitals,



etc.) for certain periods of the 24-hour day.

Pollution of river waters such as the Hudson River have brought on a great deal of their problems up there, and we'd better watch it down here, too. Pollution all over the nation is getting to the serious stage, though we here in Florida have not had too much problem with it as yet. But as Florida industrializes more and more each year, we will be faced with it before you can crank up an outboard.

Had a little note in the mail from Andrew Bass of North Fort Myers. He enclosed an article from the SUWANNEE DEMOCRAT about the threat of pollution in that famous stream, and even though he lives way down in Fort Myers, he is concerned enough about pollution in the Suwannee to write about it.

Seems there has been quite a bit of phosphate appearing in the Suwannee, and this could be one of the reasons behind the move to make the famous stream a National Wild River. There is quite a bit of controversy on that subject, and yours truly has taken neither side on it. I can see the benefits in making the Suwannee a wild river . . . stopping the possibilities of future pollution being one. But, on the other hand, the rights and privileges of persons living and owning property along the Suwannee must be considered, too. Perhaps they see the dark hand of Federal control of the river invading their already diminishing private rights, and this writer will have to go along with them on that. But, I agree with Andy Bass . . . for gosh sakes let's don't have any more pollution of our Florida streams and rivers.

ANYONE had a chance to take a ride in that Perry Cubmarine? Don't guess many have. It is a small submarine that Hal Steeger of ARGOSY magazine recently tested in our Florida waters, and he said it was quite a thrill. The

little subs have a diving capacity of more than 150 feet and a 360 degree bubble canopy that gives unlimited vision underwater. They are 10 ft. long with a width of 5 feet, four inches, and a speed of five knots. You can get it for \$3995, f.o.b. Lantana, Florida. That's the price for the Porpoise model, which is a one man deal. The Tigershark, ideal for family fun, is a two-man submarine that is 17 feet, six inches long and weighs 3445 pounds. You're getting into top money for this baby, though . . . she runs \$10,800 federal diplomas. But you can get four mans jobs for as much as \$75,000 if you really want to live it up.

But Steeger says the little baby he tried was a dream, and it just may be the latest thing in boating in the years to come . . . particularly in Florida waters where we have such things as deepwater springs and coral reef parks like the John Pennekamp at Key Largo.

Not all our 39,000,000 boating enthusiasts in this country own boats. Many of them spend their sea-going hours aboard someone else's outboard or yacht, as the

case may be, and if you're among the newcomers joining in on the water fun for the first time, Bill Prentiss of Johnson Motors sends along some advice on being a guest or a pest.

There really are certain rules any guest aboard a boat should follow. For example, you should always wear soft, skid-proof shoes . . . for your own safety as well as to protect varnished and matted surfaces.

In that area of footwork, by the way, guests should always remember to step in and out of the boat—not on and off the gunwale—again for safety's sake.

Above all . . . don't volunteer for unfamiliar duties without confessing inexperience. Many a boat has drifted far to sea because an untrained crew member agreed to tie up (with a family knot, no less.)

Another thing . . . remember we were just talking about pollution? Well, try to remember to keep all refuse aboard for shore disposal. And use fresh water discriminately. When you're in port at night for an overnight stay, avoid unnecessary noise during evening hours . . . you know how sounds carry across water.

As a guest, it is also wise to offer to share fuel expenses during any cruise of more than two hours, and be available for muscle duty if your host is launching or loading an outboard boat without an automatic winch.

A PRETTY HANDY new form of life jacket has been brought to our attention. As you will note from pictures elsewhere in this article, the new "Mizzen-Mate" life jacket is actually an all-weather coat that has class as well as being most functional. Made in Norway, the "Mizzen-Mate" life jacket is available in Florida in five colors through Maus & Hoffman's 710 East Las Olas Blvd., in Fort Lauderdale. The women's jacket will cost \$50, the men's \$55, and children's \$47.50. ●



The only worry here, from falling overboard, is wet hair. The "Mizzen Mate" life jacket coat not only keeps one afloat, but is warm as toast topside.



## CONSERVATION SCENE

(Continued from page 4)

ant in all the major corn-producing counties of North Florida.

"About five hundred birds are scheduled to be experimentally stocked this year," says Murray. "Releases have been made up to date in Suwannee, Washington, Santa Rosa, Walton and Okaloosa Counties. In previous years releases have been made—and successful reproduction observed—in Jackson and Holmes Counties. Releases are also scheduled for Gadsden, Calhoun and possibly Escambia Counties depending on the supply of young birds."

The bird being released by the Commission is the Iranian pheasant and not the Chinese ringneck which was successfully introduced in the Northern United States. The Iranian variety was chosen for Florida because it originated in a comparable climate and is considered to have the best chance of becoming established as a new game bird species for Florida scattergunners. It requires woods and fencerows for cover and agricultural fields for feeding range.

"We wish to emphasize that this is an experimental program and we request that hunters cooperate in making it a success by absolutely refraining from shooting any unusual fowl that may be encountered afield this fall or during subsequent seasons. Perhaps, then in a few years, pheasant won't be unusual in North Florida at all," concludes Murray.

### Shooting Preserve Directory

THE 1965-66 National Shooting Preserve Directory has been published in the U. S. Hunting Atlas now on the newstands, according to the National Shooting Sports Foundation which compiles the directory annually as a free service to hunters and preserve operators.

Sportsmen looking for a place

to hunt will find more than 500 preserves in the United States and Canada listed in the directory.

Each listing includes the name of the preserve, the county and address where it is located, the telephone number, and the type of game available for hunting.

Additional information on season dates and license fees is provided for each state.

The directory, which lists only those preserves open to the public, will also be distributed through the Foundation's member companies, gun clubs and sporting goods stores. It will also be published in the November issue of Guns and Hunting magazine.

### Hyacinth Control Report

DURING A SIX MONTH period from January 1 through June 30, 1965, the hyacinth control division of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission affected a kill of approximately 12,531 acres of hyacinths and other noxious vegetation.

According to a report released by V. W. Myers, assistant chief of the Commission's hyacinth control division, eleven control crews operating airboats, and one airplane crew treated 169 bodies of water located in 36 counties. The spraying operation required 7,718 gallons of chemicals which is mixed at a ratio of one gallon of chemical to 100 gallons of water or other carrier fluid.

In addition to the spraying operation, the hyacinth control crews assisted other fish manage-

ment projects, removed obstructions from rivers and waterways and improved boating and fishing conditions by cutting trails with underwater weed cutters.

Florida's lakes and ponds received major emphasis during this spraying period. Notable exceptions were the Kissimee River in Highlands, Osceola, Okeechobee and Polk counties where 1,215 acres of hyacinths were sprayed and the Withlacoochee River in Citrus, Hernando, Levy, Marion and Sumter counties where 2,629 acres of hyacinths were brought under control.

### Outdoor Recreation Map

ONE OF THE BEST outdoor buys of the year is the big (3½x5½ feet) wall map being issued by the Interior's Bureau of Land Management.

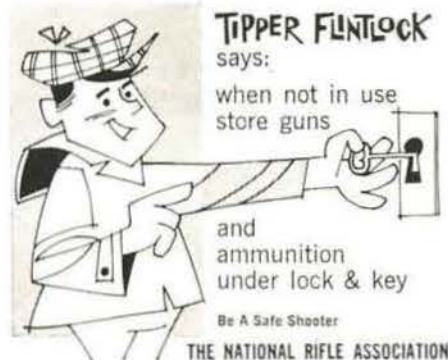
Splendidly detailed, it clearly shows all U. S. public domain lands—national forests, national parks and monuments, national wildlife refuges, and all Bureau of Land Management holdings. It even shows all Indian reservations.

This important map costs \$2 per print from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D.C., 20402. Buy two, one for home and one for your kit.

### Water Resources Planning

CONSERVATIONISTS, SPORTSMEN, and public officials charged with the responsibility of planning future supplies of water for both industrial and domestic use are hailing the enactment of the "Water Resources Planning Act of 1965."

Introduced in the 89th Congress January 6 by Sen. Clinton P. Anderson (N. Mex.), along with five co-sponsors, the bill (S.21) recently cleared both chambers and a conference committee on minor amendments. It was signed into law (P.L. 89-80) by the President. A similar measure had been passed by the Senate and







## WATERFOWL HUNTERS

Make certain you have a 1965-66 Federal Migratory Waterfowl Hunting Stamp before hunting waterfowl. Available from your local post office at a cost of \$3.00, the "duck" stamp is required of all waterfowl hunters 16 years of age and older.

Your name must be signed in ink across the face of the stamp before you hunt.

A trio of canvasback drakes, shown at left, is featured on the 1965-66 stamp, from a drawing by Ron Jenkins.

was approved by the House Interior Committee in the 88th Congress but failed to attain final passage before adjournment.

Widely acclaimed as the most significant and valuable pieces of conservation legislation to clear the Congress thus far in the current session, the new Act establishes a "Cabinet level" Water Resources Council consisting of the Secretaries of Interior, Agriculture, Army, and Health, Education and Welfare, plus the Chairman of the Federal Power Commission. The new law also establishes river basin commission to coordinate Federal, state, interstate and local plans for water resources. Finally, in perhaps the most important feature, the new Water Resources Planning Act provides for Federal financial grants to the states for planning purposes.

"An ample supply of good quality water is essential if the United States is to continue to grow and prosper," said Wayne N. Aspinall (Colo.), chairman of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, in urging final approval for the measure. "As our available supplies dwindle," he said, "it is important that we plan the use of our nation's water supplies to provide maximum benefits for all purposes—domestic and industrial use as well as for irrigation, flood control, pollution prevention, navigation, hydroelectric power and energy, outdoor recreation, and fish and wildlife enhancement." ●

## Florida Migratory Game Bird Regulations 1965-1966

### Waterfowl—Ducks, Geese, Coot

**Seasons:** Two Phase, November 24, 1965 through December 6, 1965

December 18, 1965 through January 9, 1966

**Shooting Hours:** Nov. 24, First Phase Opening Day, 12-noon to sunset

From sunrise to sunset all other days

| Bag Limits | Daily Limit | Possession Limit    |
|------------|-------------|---------------------|
| Ducks      | 4           | (see notes below) 8 |
| Geese      | 2           | 4                   |
| Coot       | 10          | 20                  |

The daily bag limit on ducks other than mergansers may not include more of the following species than: (a) 2 wood ducks; (b) 2 mallards; and (c) 2 canvasbacks.

The possession limit on ducks other than mergansers may not include more of the following species than: (a) 2 wood ducks (b) 4 mallards; and (c) 2 canvasbacks.

The limits on American, red-breasted, and hooded mergansers, in the aggregate of these species, are 5 daily and 10 in possession, of which not more than 1 daily and 2 in possession may be hooded mergansers.

South of State Road 50, duck hunters will be allowed to have 4 Florida ducks in their total bag of 4. North of State Road 50 the Florida Duck is classified along with the mallard and hunters may have no more than 2 in their daily bag.

In the following described areas, two scaup ducks may be taken in addition to the daily bag: all open waters of Charlotte Harbor area from the bridge on U. S. Highway 41 to a line running from Boca Grande Pass east through Bokeelia to the mainland; all open waters of the Guano River Wildlife Management Area in St. Johns County; all open waters of Banana River from Banana Creek south to State Road 520; all open waters of Tampa Bay; all open waters of the Indian River from Shiloh south to the bridge on State Road 516 at Melbourne; all open waters of Mosquito Lagoon from Oak Hill to State Road 402.

**LEON COUNTY.** Waterfowl hunting permitted only on opening day, Wednesdays, Saturdays, Sundays, November 25 and 26, and December 6. The use of all outboard motors is prohibited on Lake Iamonia, and Lake Jackson, during the open seasons for waterfowl hunting.

### Mourning Dove Bag Limits: Daily Limit 12; Possession Limit 24.

Three Phase Season, shooting hours from 12-noon to sunset.

**First Season:** October 2 through November 7.

Except Alligator Point, Franklin County, Third District, closed.

**Second Season:** November 20 through December 5, statewide.

**Third Season:** December 18 through January 3, statewide.

### Marsh Hens

(Rails and Gallinules)

Shooting hours, from sunrise to sunset.

Season: September 11 to November 19.

Daily Limit 15; Possession Limit 30.

### Snipe

Shooting hours, from sunrise to sunset.

Season: November 13 to January 1.

Daily Limit 8; Possession Limit 16.

### Woodcock

Shooting hours, from sunrise to sunset.

Season: November 13 to January 1.

Daily Limit 5; Possession Limit 10.



## FISHING

(Continued from page 9)

she was checking them in preparation for repairs but without interrupting her conversation she finished all of them within 20 minutes or so.

Voluminous repair charts and exploded drawings are employed when rare specimens go on the operating table. The repair literature is mounted directly in front of the worker.

Although many reels are sent in by individuals, the larger repair orders come from big department stores. Bennett's investment in parts probably runs into six figures.

Two years ago Bennett was looking around and figuring how to liquidate a tackle business he didn't think was going to make it. Just then some men came in seeking parts for an obsolete reel. Gary dug up the pieces and suddenly realized he had \$12,000 invested in parts. He decided to go into the business and went on a shopping tour, buying up unwanted parts in the cobwebbed crannies of Florida tackle shops. He'll sell either parts or repair jobs.

Bennett is quick with advice about reel care. You'd think he didn't want the repair business.

With open-faced spinning reels, he says the main problem is bail springs and bent bails. He recommends manual reels but knows the public isn't going to go for them too strongly as long as automatic bails look easier to work.

With spin-cast reels he says the Number One mistake is in tightening down the cone (which usually regulates the drag) and leaving it tight. Something is almost sure to stick. You should loosen the drag when you finish a day's fishing.

Baitcasting reels suffer most frequently from worm and pawl disorders. Grit in the level-winding mechanism destroys it almost immediately. Lost caps, nuts and



If you think you've seen a listing of reel parts you should thumb through a few hundred pages of catalogs at Gary Bennett's place. Mrs. Lorraine Sandstrom, checking over parts book, can fix most reels in five minutes.

screws put many out of commission.

Almost anyone can repair a reel if he keeps careful track of the way the parts go, says Bennett, but most of us won't do that. The result is a basket case.

THE SWIRLS and splashes made by Florida fishes aren't as easily identified as some old timers would have you believe. I know that's true because I've heard some strong arguments on the subject.

An actual bass strike on the surface is likely to have a popping sound and perhaps a secondary splash caused by the tail as the fish heads back down.

In shallow water a moving bass generally goes more slowly and more steadily than a mullet (found in many Florida rivers).

A gar "rolling" on the surface tends to make two splashes so close together that the wave circles overlap almost instantly.

A shad rolls rather gently and it is sometimes called "washing" but it's easy to confuse shad with small gar unless you're looking right at him when he comes up.

The bottle cork popping of bream is pretty distinctive but small bass can produce a similar sound. Sometimes the swirls I've taken for bluegills in open water have turned out to be small cat-

fish. Shiners often make bream-like commotions along the edges of hyacinths or grass.

Chasing a lure near the surface, a gar appears to slash at it from the same level it's traveling and the same is true of a pickerel ("pike" to many Floridians). Bass give the impression of coming up from below it.

Mudfish or grindles strike much the way bass do although somewhat more slowly. . . . Generally, that is.

IN THE Homosassa and Crystal River sections on the West coast, the "accessory" motor system is widely used by outboard fishing boats. That's simply a small engine used for maneuvering purposes, for trolling, for getting through water growth and as a spare in case of breakdown.

They use this system in lots of places; in other spots where the convenience would be just as great you don't see the spare so often. I've carried the little motor on a large percentage of my fishing travel and have only one objection. Sometimes, when maneuvering through very brushy creeks, the motor that's tipped up can catch on something and be damaged.

The larger boats often carry the spare on a bracket rather than mounted on the transom beside



the main power source. That's sometimes necessary to keep it out of the way of the big engine and often the main engine has a long shaft requiring a high transom. The owner prefers to use a short shaft motor for his spare; hence the bracket which puts it down a bit lower.

The short shaft makes it possible to use the little motor on skiffs with low sterns.

Actually, a very small motor can be used on a high transom in emergency, even if it's short-shaft. Although it won't project far enough into the water to give the most efficient operation, it will move you along and draw very little water. The gimmick is that you simply shift the boat's weight so that the small motor's end of the transom is pushed deeper into the water.

Of course you have to watch carefully to make sure it's pumping water unless it's air cooled.

The secondary motors I've used for a number of years are 3-horsepower Johnsons and Evinrudes

which are pretty good for running through mud (the builders don't recommend it) or through submerged grass.

Doing some bass fishing in a canal off Lake Okeechobee we met Jack and Lucy Allen of Clearwater who said they'd recently returned from a sojourn in the Bahamas.

The Allens were engaged in fishing for panfish with light tackle, were using a canoe and inquired about some Everglades water I'd had some experience in. I told them what I could about the snook and tarpon in the National Park area.

Jack Allen stressed the point he wasn't interested in large fish and it appeared they were having more fun with bream than they would have had with bass.

When I did some cross-questioning, it developed they'd had plenty of bonefish experience and all the rest that goes with Bahama residence.

My point is that not all good fishermen are on the competitive

kick or must have tackle-tearing monsters to enjoy themselves.

A WHILE BACK I offered to pass on the names and addresses of persons collecting antique fishing tackle. I don't know much about tackle history myself but get queries about it now and then.

Well, here's a collector of old baitcasting reels. He's Carl Gast of 5411 46th St., Tampa 10, Florida. He's looking for reels in the era of Meek, Blue Grass and Meisselbach, built before the level wind originated.

Mr. Gast's letter points out that the baitcasting reel is definitely an American contraption and this is a special bit of "Americana." I am inclined to agree when he says, "I find that in accuracy and distance as well as in just plain fish catching, the baitcasting reel has never been surpassed."

There's nostalgia in his mention of how he caught the fishing bug from Dr. James Henshall's "Book Of the Black Bass" around the age of 13. ●

## LET'S GO BOWHUNTING!

*(Continued from page 21)*

users of bow sights. But now some of the scoffers are changing their viewpoint! Big game kill records show that users of a bow sight have a much higher hunting success ratio than the bare bow advocates. Even the experts acknowledge the value of a bow sight.

Jack Howard, California archer and bow-maker, who has killed more than forty deer, wouldn't hunt without one. His preference is an inexpensive combination sight with "set pins" for 20, 30 and 40 yards, with bow window locations determined by actual shooting. One of his "pins" is always close to correct aim.

Buck Doran, another famous bowhunter and archery expert, says, "Why some archers refuse to even try a bow sight is beyond me. During my 26 years of hunt-

ing, its use has proved so superior to instinctive style of aiming, I wouldn't even consider changing!"

You don't have to use a bow sight, but its use will prove educational and definitely help you to analyze your shooting form.

What are some of the reasons for missing a shot, once your big chance comes? The list is long, but here are a few of the usual ones. . . .

Lack of practice. Inability to judge shooting range. Improper nocking of an arrow. Failure to keep arrow release hand and fingers relaxed when shooting. Interference of a loosely hanging arm sleeve. Arrow inadvertently touching a deflecting leaf or twig in flight. Faulty equipment (largely due to the bowhunter failing to inspect and test prior to hunting use). Last, just plain hard luck!

But even if you have a hunting record of misses, the law of averages says that eventually you will make a hit and kill. Therein lies bowhunting's perpetual appeal. . . .

Where game is hit but lost, the usual reason is a dull arrow that fails to do an immediate and efficient cutting job on blood vessels and vital organs. Keep hunting arrows razor sharp.

If Florida bowhunting doesn't provide enough excitement, you can pack your tackle and head for some of the dangerous game regions of other states and countries. You won't hunt handicapped. The modern hunting bow has accounted for tough grizzlies, polar bear, moose, and even elephant and tiger trophies. In the hands of a man who knows how to use it, the bow is still one of the deadliest weapons developed by man. ●



## FISHING TOURIST (Continued from page 17)

fishing from a scratch start is to pick out two or three sectors of the state you might like to fish and be sure they're some distance apart. Then contact a resort operator in each area, possibly by mail, and look over his literature.

Now, as time for the trip approaches, use the telephone for checks of your chosen areas. This seems expensive at first but it's much less costly than a blind trip.

Be an opportunist and keep an open mind. Don't stampede past a lot of good fishing simply to get to a spot you've set your mind on

unless reports are good from your first choice.

I've made a lot of mistakes in selecting fishing spots but I always recall one brilliant decision I made years ago. On a loosely scheduled Florida fishing trip I stopped 100 miles short of my destination to check a place I'd heard rumors about. Fishing was so good I didn't make it the rest of the way for two years and I'm still going back to the place I stopped "accidentally."

Not many successful fishing strangers will tell you just what

tree to tie your boat to but most of them are free with general fishing information. Only a few will decline to tell what lures they use. Sensible psychology will get lots of information but the pet peeve of many a fishing authority (local or general) is the guy who asks a question and then starts declaiming his own prowess before anyone can answer. A little respectful silence is the way to get something useful from a guy who, you must remember, is doing you a favor. ●

## CONSERVATION BANDWAGON (Continued from page 5)

cans are a special breed of predator precludes possibilities of economic decline through waste of resources. At least so we think.

But which is more important, to shroud the scrap piles of progress or to initiate a program to conserve these nonrenewable resources?

Road beautification is another phase of this new program, especially transcontinental subsidized speedways. No one can rightfully quarrel with road beautification. One moot question is whether to have billboards or not to have billboards. Attempting to escape the metropolitan influence becomes more difficult every day.

Bridges, it has been said, should blend into the landscape and not be architectural monstrosities, but what about the water that runs under the bridge? What is being done about the poisons of industrial, municipal and agricultural pollution? Which is more important in the survival fight, pretty bridges or clean water. If our values were properly balanced we could have both. Tree planting along roads can also be used for two purposes, to stop soil erosion, or to hide its ugly scars from the speeding tourist.

So long as our gypsy public continues with its present habits

it will be necessary to fine litterbugs. A motorist in my vicinity was arrested and charged with speeding and throwing a beer bottle out of his car. He was fined \$15 for speeding, and \$25 for throwing the beer bottle. Beautification is on the march.

It would seem only good common sense that our land-based problems, forest fires, erosion and pollution—the latter two common to all areas—should be paramount in an intelligent conservation program until they have reached a high standard of efficiency and good husbandry, and

that recreation should be promoted as a desirable but less important part of the conservation spectrum.

So long as the attitudes of adults are indifferent to waste and beautification it will be difficult to teach the younger generation that such programs have merit. The boy is the father of the man.

In my region one of the heartening things which I have observed coming from all this recent conservation upsurge is crews of boys working on stream improvement, pollution abatement and other projects having to do with lakes and streams. These programs are being sponsored through emergency flood control funds and the Neighborhood Youth Corps. The Federal government furnishes the funds, and projects and direction are determined by the state.

The boys are building rock wing dams and retaining walls, and cleaning trash from once beautiful streams. They are using their muscles, seeing nature first-hand and earning \$1.25 an hour. The lessons they learn from these experiences will stay with some of them into adult life, and these chosen few will continue to have an appreciation of nature and beautification. ●

## NATURE NOTES

You can't be sure of a deer's age by the number of points on his antlers. Tooth succession is the best index to age.

\* \* \*

The otter's favorite pastime is sliding. During the winter months a mother and her young will spend hours every day sliding down steep creek banks.

\* \* \*

Loons have exceptional diving ability. Their legs are placed so far back on their bodies that they can't walk erect on land but move by sliding on their breast.



FOR THAT  
**BIG ONE**  
THAT  
**DIDN'T**  
GET AWAY



## FLORIDA WILDLIFE'S FISHING CITATION

is available without charge, to any and all subscribers to Florida Wildlife Magazine, and their immediate families, who catch any of the fresh-water game fish of the prescribed species and size requirements. Citation, showing recorded date of the catch, will be mailed to the applicant upon receipt of the following application form that has been properly filled out and signed.

Only fishing citation applications received within 90 days from date of catch will be honored.

### APPLICATION FOR FLORIDA WILDLIFE FISHING CITATION

The Editor, FLORIDA WILDLIFE Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, Fla.

Please send me the Florida Wildlife Fishing Citation with the inscribed data listed below:

Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Species \_\_\_\_\_ Weight \_\_\_\_\_ Length \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Tackle \_\_\_\_\_

Bait or Lure Used \_\_\_\_\_

Where Caught \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ County

Date Caught \_\_\_\_\_ Catch Witnessed By \_\_\_\_\_

Registered, Weighed By \_\_\_\_\_ At \_\_\_\_\_

(Signature of Applicant)

### ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS SPECIES

#### LARGEMOUTH BASS

.....8 pounds or larger

#### CHAIN PICKEREL

.....4 pounds or larger

#### BLUEGILL (BREAM)

.....1 1/2 pounds or larger

#### SHELLCRACKER

.....2 pounds or larger

#### BLACK CRAPPIE

.....2 pounds or larger

#### RED BREAST

.....1 pound or larger

All fish must be taken from the fresh waters of the state of Florida, as defined by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. Fish must be caught on conventional fishing tackle, with artificial or live bait, in the presence of at least one witness.

The catch must be weighed and recorded at a fishing camp or tackle store within the state by the owner, manager, or an authorized agent of the respective establishment.

CUT OUT AND SAVE THIS APPLICATION BLANK





Into fresh waters, via canal and river, the powerful, high-leaping tarpon provides prime autumn angling thrills.—F.S.N.B. Photo

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